



of general education teacher

Summary

■ Responsibilities and conditions for practising the profession	1
■ Obtaining the teaching permit	2
■ Obtaining the teaching diploma	4
■ Obtaining the provisional teaching authorization	4
■ Appropriate knowledge of the language of instruction	6
■ Appendix 1	7
■ Appendix 2	9
■ Appendix 3	10
■ Appendix 4	11

RESPONSIBILITIES AND CONDITIONS FOR PRACTISING THE PROFESSION

Preschool, elementary and secondary school teachers – general and vocational education – practise a profession regulated by the *Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport (MELS) du Québec*. For more information on the Québec education system, see Appendix 1.

To teach in an institution offering preschool, elementary or secondary education, teachers must hold a teaching licence issued by the MELS. This licence ensures teaching qualifications.

The licence to teach in the **general education** sector may be in the form of:

- a teaching permit;
- a teaching diploma; or
- a provisional teaching authorization.

Useful information

For information on the licence to teach **vocational education**, consult the [Practising the profession of vocational education teacher](#) fact sheet on the Internet site of the Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles (MICC).

No teaching licence is required to teach in college and university institutions. Each postsecondary teaching institution hires its own teaching staff and evaluates their teaching qualifications according to its own rules.

Practical advice

If you plan to practise the profession of general education teacher in Québec, you would be well advised to contact the MELS before your departure to find out about the rules regulating access to the profession and to assess the steps you will have to take to obtain your teaching licence.

Useful information

- *Holding a teaching diploma or a teaching permit does not automatically lead to employment. It is incumbent upon the holder of a teaching licence to approach employers in order to find work.*
- *The nature of the teaching licence (teaching diploma, teaching permit, provisional teaching authorization) held does not have an impact on the teacher's salary. In Québec, teachers' salaries are determined by years of experience and education.*

OBTAINING THE TEACHING PERMIT

This type of permit is for immigrants who have obtained a teaching licence in their own country and wish to practise the teaching profession in Québec.

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PERMIT

The teaching permit is a provisional licence. To obtain a teaching permit in the general education sector, candidates must have a university degree as prescribed by regulation or a degree or training recognized as equivalent by the MELS. Candidates who have graduated outside Québec must also:

- hold a teaching licence issued outside Québec by the competent authority of the province, territory or State in which they received training in education or teaching;

- have successfully completed a university program equivalent to a Québec bachelor's degree of at least three years and comprising no less than 450 hours of training in educational psychology;
 - for **preschool or elementary** level teachers, the training acquired must be equivalent to either a 90-credit or a 120-credit bachelor's degree in preschool and elementary education offered at a Québec university;
 - for **secondary** level teachers, the training must have been completed in a university and the subjects studied be relevant to those set out in Québec's *Basic School Regulation* (see Appendix 2).

To obtain a teaching permit, candidates must hold a status allowing them to work in Canada.

Useful information

- *In Québec, admission to a university program generally requires the successful completion of 13 years of elementary, secondary and collegial education.*
- *The 450 hours of university courses in educational psychology correspond to at least 30 credits or one complete year of full-time study in a teacher training program.*
- *In Québec, one credit (or one unit) represents 15 hours of class work and about 30 hours of individual work. A three-year bachelor's degree generally consists of 90 credits.*
- *While it may be considered an asset by future employers, teaching experience is not taken into account when assessing candidates' training.*
- *Homeroom teachers at the preschool and elementary levels teach all subjects except for physical education, arts education and second language.*

Procedure for obtaining a teaching permit in Québec

- 1 You must become familiar with the [Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit](#) available on the MELS Internet site.
- 2 You must complete and sign the [Declaration concerning a judicial record](#) included in the Appendix of the Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit and mail it to the following address:

Direction de la formation et de la titularisation
du personnel scolaire
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 28^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

- 3 You must complete and sign the **Application for a Québec teaching permit** included in the Appendix of the Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit and provide the following documents:
 - ☐ Birth certificate, act of birth or valid passport
A marriage certificate is required for women using their spouse's family name.
 - ☐ Document authorizing you to teach in the province, territory or State where you acquired your training in educational psychology
A letter attesting to the validity of this document **dated less than three months prior to the current date** must be sent to the MELS.
 - ☐ Diplomas supporting your application for a teaching permit
 - ☐ Transcripts for each successfully completed training program supporting your application for a teaching permit (course outline, as applicable)
 - ☐ Declaration concerning the language of study outside Canada, appended to the Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit
 - ☐ *Évaluation comparative des études effectuées hors du Québec* issued by the *Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles*
Fees of \$105 are required.
 - ☐ Document attesting to your status in Canada: Canadian Citizenship Certificate, permanent resident, work permit, proof of refugee status, valid *certificat de sélection du Québec* (CSQ), etc.

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all the required documents will be reviewed. For more information on the documents to be provided, consult the Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit.

All documents must be **certified true copies of the original**. For documents written in a language other than French or English, candidates must also supply a French or English translation attested to by a translator who is a member of the *Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec* (OTTIAQ).

- 4 The application for a teaching permit and the required documents must be mailed to the following address:
 - a) **For applicants residing outside Québec**
Direction de la formation et de la titularisation du personnel scolaire du MELS
(See point 2 for contact information)
 - b) **For applicants residing in Québec**
The MELS regional office serving your region
(See Appendix 3 for contact information)
- 5 You will receive the decision of the MELS respecting your application for a teaching permit in writing. If your application is refused, you will be informed of the program of study to be successfully completed to obtain your teaching licence.

Useful information

- ***A certified true copy of the original is a photocopy of an original document authenticated by a commissioner for oaths. A commissioner for oaths is authorized by the Minister of Justice of Québec to authenticate documents or to receive oaths. By virtue of their status, lawyers, notaries, mayors, court clerks, secretary-treasurers of a municipality, and justices of the peace may act as commissioners of oaths in Québec. When authenticating a certified copy of the original, the commissioner of oaths must ensure they include his or her:***
 - ***name,***
 - ***title or duties,***
 - ***contact information,***
 - ***telephone number.***
- ***You may apply for a Québec teaching permit from abroad even if you have not yet been granted a status authorizing you to work in Canada. If your file is complete and you meet all the requirements for obtaining a teaching permit, a certificate of eligibility with a two-year validity period may be issued to you until you obtain a status in Canada. If you wish to apply from abroad, contact the MELS to find out about the rules respecting certified copies.***

RENEWING THE PERMIT

The teaching permit is valid for five years and may be renewed for five-year periods under certain conditions, i.e.:

- if the permit holder successfully completes the course on the Québec school system (3 credits);
- if the permit holder successfully completes 12 credits in education, broken down as follows:
 - 3 credits in the evaluation of learning achievement;
 - 6 credits in didactics pertaining to the subject to be taught;
 - 3 credits in intervention with handicapped students or students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities.

Applicants wishing to renew their teaching permit must once again include a *Declaration concerning a judicial record* and the original transcripts of the completed courses with their application.

OBTAINING THE TEACHING DIPLOMA

A teaching diploma is a permanent authorization to practise the teaching profession.

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE TEACHING DIPLOMA

To **directly** obtain a teaching diploma, candidates must hold a diploma in an accredited initial teacher training program (sometimes referred to as pre-service programs) from a Québec university.

To obtain a teaching diploma, **holders of a teaching permit** who were trained abroad must:

- successfully complete a 600- or 900-hour probationary period to demonstrate their ability to teach in the Québec school system;
- successfully complete the course on the Québec school system (3 credits);

- successfully complete 12 credits in education, broken down as follows:

- 3 credits in the evaluation of learning achievement;
- 6 credits in didactics pertaining to the subject to be taught;
- 3 credits in intervention with handicapped students or students with social maladjustments or learning disabilities.

Applicants **must** be permanent residents or Canadian citizens to obtain a teaching diploma.

OBTAINING THE PROVISIONAL TEACHING AUTHORIZATION

The provisional teaching authorization for general education is a transitional provision in effect until August 31, 2010.

CONDITIONS FOR OBTAINING THE PROVISIONAL TEACHING AUTHORIZATION

To obtain the provisional teaching authorization, graduates trained in Québec or abroad must:

- hold a promise of employment from an employer certifying that the person is to be given, within the school year in progress, a position directly related to the bachelor's degree they have earned;
- have earned at least 6 credits in education, in an accredited initial teacher training program in a Québec university;
- have a bachelor's or equivalent degree comprising at least 60 credits in one or several of the subject areas listed in *Québec's Basic school regulation for preschool, elementary and secondary education* (See Appendix 2).

Applicants **must** be permanent residents or Canadian citizens to obtain a provisional teaching authorization.

Procedure for obtaining a provisional teaching authorization

- 1 You must complete and sign the [Declaration concerning a judicial record](#) and mail it to the following address:

Direction de la formation et de la titularisation
du personnel scolaire
Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 28^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

- 2 You must complete and sign the [Request for issuance of a temporary teaching licence, general education](#).
You must also provide the following documents:

- ☐ Birth certificate, act of birth or valid passport
A marriage certificate is required for women using their spouse's family name.
- ☐ Diplomas and transcripts relevant to the program to be taught
- ☐ *Évaluation comparative des études effectuées hors du Québec* issued by the *Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles*
Fees of \$105 are required.
- ☐ Document attesting to your status in Canada: Certificate of Citizenship, permanent resident, work permit, proof of refugee status, valid *certificat de sélection du Québec* (CSQ), etc.
- ☐ Original transcripts demonstrating successful completion of at least 6 credits in an accredited initial teacher training program in a Québec university.
Have the employer complete and sign the section respecting the promise of employment.

Only applications duly completed and accompanied by all the required documents will be reviewed.

All documents must be **certified true copies of the original**. For documents written in a language other than French or English, candidates must also supply a French or English translation attested to by a translator who is a member of the *Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec* (OTTIAQ).

- 3 The application for a provisional teaching authorization and all the required documents must be mailed to the MELS regional office in the candidate's settlement region or the region where the future employer is located (see Appendix 3).
- 4 You will receive the decision of the Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport respecting your application for a provisional teaching authorization in writing. If your application is refused, you will be informed of the program of study to be successfully completed to obtain your provisional teaching authorization.

Useful information

*Under the Education Act and the Act respecting private education, a teaching licence is required to teach in a preschool, elementary or secondary institution. However, in exceptional circumstances, the Minister of Education, Recreation and Sports may authorize a school board or a private institution, on the conditions and for the period he or she determines, to hire as preschool education providers or elementary or secondary-level teachers persons who do not hold a teaching licence. This exemption is called a "tolérance d'engagement." **School employers (not employees) may take advantage of this provision under certain circumstances, particularly if they can demonstrate that no one legally authorized to teach is available to fill the position in the relevant subject area. This exemption is valid for only one school year and is not renewable. It does not lead to a teaching permit or a teaching diploma.***

RENEWING THE PROVISIONAL TEACHING AUTHORIZATION

The provisional teaching authorization is valid for a period of two years. For the authorization to be renewed, candidates must be enrolled in an accredited initial teacher training program in a Québec university. The authorization may be renewed for the following periods:

- 1) a first period of two school years if the holders have earned at least 30% of the credits in a bachelor's program in education in which they are enrolled;
- 2) a second period of two school years if the holders have earned at least 60% of the credits in the said program;
- 3) a third and final period of one school year if the holders have earned at least 90% of the credits in the said program.

Practical advice

Appendix 4 presents an overview of the main paths leading to the profession of general education teacher in Québec.

APPROPRIATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

Practising the teaching profession requires command of the language of instruction, whether it be French or English. Persons who received the major part of the training adduced to support an application for a teaching licence in a language other than French or English must pass the French or English examination recognized by the MELS for the purposes of the issuance of a teaching licence.

In respect of the language of instruction, this examination assesses:

- 1) oral comprehension;
- 2) written comprehension;
- 3) oral expression; and
- 4) written expression.

As of **September 1, 2008**, all applicants for a teaching licence, regardless of the language in which they received their training, must pass the French or English examination as part of the Québec teacher training program, according to the language selected.

References

- *An Act respecting private education (RSQ, c. E-9.1).*
- *Education Act (RSQ., c. I-13.3).*
- [*Regulation respecting teaching licences \(RSQ., c. I-13.3, a. 456\).*](#)
- [*Terms and conditions for obtaining a Québec teaching permit, MELS.*](#)



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Information on the conditions for practising the teaching profession in Québec

- **Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport**

Direction de la formation et de la titularisation du personnel scolaire
1035, rue De La Chevrotière, 28^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5A5

Telephone: 418 646-6581

Fax: 418 643-2149

Internet: www.mels.gouv.qc.ca/dftps

Information and assistance with regard to obtaining a teaching license

- **Ministère de l'Immigration et des Communautés culturelles**

www.immigration-quebec.gouv.qc.ca

In the Montréal region:
Contact the Service d'information sur les professions et métiers réglementés at 514 864-9191.

Elsewhere in Québec or from abroad:
Get in touch with the [*Service Immigration-Québec*](#) in your settlement area.

To obtain an *Évaluation comparative des études effectuées hors du Québec*:

In the Montréal region or from abroad:
Contact the *Centre d'expertise sur les formations acquises hors du Québec* at 514 864-9191.

Elsewhere in Québec:
Get in touch with the [*Service Immigration-Québec*](#) in your settlement area.

Free access to laws and regulations on the Internet and sale of print documents

- **Les Publications du Québec**
www.publicationsduquebec.gouv.qc.ca

Information on the job market in Québec

- **Emploi-Québec**
emploi-quebec.net
- **Fédération des commissions scolaires du Québec**
www.fcsq.qc.ca
- **Fédération des établissements d'enseignement privés**
www.cadre.qc.ca

Notice

The information in this document was current in December 2007. It was obtained from various sources and in no way replaces current legislation and regulations.

The fees mentioned herein are subject to change. They are in Canadian dollars and include all applicable taxes.

The Ministère de l'Éducation, du Loisir et du Sport has validated the French version of this document.

The English version is in accordance with the French version, but has not been validated by the Ministère.



THE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN QUÉBEC

In Québec, school attendance is compulsory for children ages 6 to 16. The Québec education system is organized into three different levels: preschool and elementary education, secondary education and higher education.

Preschool and elementary education

Although it is not compulsory, preschool education is available in kindergarten to children from four to five years of age. Elementary education, which lasts six years, constitutes the first years of general education. During their elementary studies, students are introduced to basic subjects and develop psychosocial skills.

Secondary education

After elementary school, students may complete either five years of secondary education in a general program or a vocational program variable in length. Vocational programs generally lead to entry into the labour force and the practice of various trades. Under certain conditions, vocational training may lead to higher education.

A Secondary School Diploma (SSD) is awarded on the successful completion of five years of general education and leads to higher education.

A Diploma of Vocational Studies (DVS) is awarded on completion of programs of study averaging 1,350 hours or more. Students can be admitted into programs leading to a DVS after the third, fourth or fifth year of secondary school, according to the program requirements.

An Attestation of Vocational Specialization (AVS) is awarded on completion of three to nine months of training. Some 50 programs leading to this diploma are available to holders of a DVS in certain training sectors.

An Attestation of Vocational Education (AVE) is awarded on completion of a program of study of a maximum of 900 hours. Students age 15 and over can be admitted to this program after their second year of secondary school. These studies, with practical training provided in industry, prepare students for a semi-skilled occupation.

Useful information

In compliance with the Charter of the French Language, most institutions give instruction in French at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels. However, some students who meet specific requirements of the Charter may receive their schooling in English. These students account for approximately 10% of the total enrolment in Québec's elementary and secondary schools. The Charter does not apply to college and university education.

Higher education

In Québec, higher education includes college and university education.

College education

Colleges constitute the first level of higher education. Mainly offered in the public system by general and vocational education colleges (CEGEPS), college education may also be offered by private colleges.

These institutions offer two-year preuniversity programs and three-year technical programs. The former lead to university, while the latter generally lead to the labour market, but can, under certain conditions, also lead to university.

A **Diploma of College Studies (DCS)** is awarded on completion of pre-university and technical programs.

Students may also obtain an **Attestation of College Studies (ACS)** on completing technical training of variable length (300 to 1,350 hours), leading to the labour market.

University education

University education is divided into three levels.

The first level generally leads to a bachelor's degree. A bachelor's program consists in at least 90 credits, usually completed over three years on a full-time basis. Some programs, like the bachelor's in education, require students to complete more credits over a four-year period. A bachelor's degree leads to the labour market or to the master's or doctoral level. It is also possible to enrol in shorter programs, such as certificate programs, at the undergraduate level.

Master's programs involve specialization in a field of study or initiation into research in one or several subject areas, leading to a **Master's** degree after one or two years of study.

The doctoral level is devoted to scientific research and leads to a career in research. Students may earn a **Doctorate** (Ph. D) on completing a program of no less than 90 credits over at least three years on a full-time basis. Doctoral candidates must write and defend a dissertation.

MAIN SUBJECTS SET OUT IN THE BASIC SCHOOL REGULATION AND THE NUMBER OF CREDITS REQUIRED TO TEACH GENERAL EDUCATION AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

Subject	Number of credits required
Mathematics	45 credits
Language of Instruction (French or English)	45 credits
Second Language (French or English)	45 credits
Arts (Visual Arts, Music, Drama, Dance)	45 credits
Physical Education and Health	45 credits
Ethics and Religious Culture (Personal Development)	45 credits
Other elective subjects	45 credits
Science and Technology (Physics, Chemistry, Biology)	
Only one subject:	45 credits
More than one subject:	30 credits for the first subject and 18 credits for the second subject
History and Citizenship Education (History, Citizenship Education, Geography, Contemporary and Economic Environment)	
Only one subject:	45 credits
More than one subject:	30 credits for the first subject and 18 credits for the second subject

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR THE REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE *MINISTÈRE DE L'ÉDUCATION, DU LOISIR ET DU SPORT DU QUÉBEC*

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DU BAS-SAINT-LAURENT ET DE LA GASPÉSIE—ÎLES-DE-LA-MADELEINE

337, rue Moreault, bureau 2.04, 2^e étage
Rimouski (Québec) G5L 0A5
418 727-3600

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DU SAGUENAY—LAC-SAINT-JEAN

Édifice Marguerite-Belley
3950, boulevard Harvey, 2^e étage
Jonquière (Québec) G7X 8L6
418 695-7982

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LA CAPITALE-NATIONALE ET DE LA CHAUDIÈRE-APPALACHES

1020, route de l'Église, 3^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1V 3V9
418 643-7934

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LA MAURICIE ET DU CENTRE-DU-QUÉBEC

Édifice Capitanal, bureau 213
100, rue Laviolette, 2^e étage
Trois-Rivières (Québec) G9A 5S9
819 371-6711

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE L'ESTRIE

200, rue Belvédère Nord,
bureau 3.05, 3^e étage
Sherbrooke (Québec) J1H 4A9
819 820-3382

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LAVAL, DES LAURENTIDES ET DE LANAUDIÈRE

300, rue Sicard, bureau 200, 2^e étage
Sainte-Thérèse (Québec) J7E 3X5
450 430-3611, poste 4242

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LA MONTÉRÉGIE

Édifice Montval
201, place Charles-Le Moyne, 6^e étage,
bureau 6.01
Longueuil (Québec) J4K 2T5
450 928-7438

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE MONTRÉAL

600, rue Fullum, 10^e étage
Montréal (Québec) H2K 4L1
514 873-4630

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE L'OUTAOUAIS

170, rue de l'Hôtel-de-Ville, 4^e étage
Gatineau (Québec) J8X 4C2
819 772-3382

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE L'ABITIBI-TÉMISCAMINGUE ET DU NORD-DU-QUÉBEC

215, boulevard Rideau, 2^e étage
Rouyn-Noranda (Québec) J9X 5Y6
819 763-3001

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LA CÔTE-NORD

Édifice Paul-Provencher
625, boulevard Laflèche, bureau 1.812
Baie-Comeau (Québec) G5C 1C5
418 295-4400

DIRECTION RÉGIONALE DU MELS DE LA CÔTE-NORD

106, rue Napoléon, 2^e étage
Sept-Îles (Québec) G4R 3L7
418 964-8420

DIFFERENT PATHS LEADING TO THE PROFESSION OF GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHER IN QUÉBEC

