

## HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

### **1. What is the definition of a “highly qualified teacher” in Pennsylvania?**

All public school teachers with primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of No Child Left Behind’s (NCLB) core content areas are required to demonstrate that they satisfy the definition of a “highly qualified teacher.” In Pennsylvania, the NCLB core content areas include English, Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Sciences, World Languages, Music, Art, and Social Studies.

### **2. How does Pennsylvania calculate the percentages of “highly qualified teachers” in the public schools of the Commonwealth?**

Annually, each school entity submits its Course/Highly Qualified teacher’s class assignment templates into the Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS). This information is matched against the teacher’s certificate subject areas in the Teacher Information Management System (TIMS).

### **3. What entities are included in this report?**

School districts, charter schools, intermediate units, and vocational technical schools that have core academic subject areas.

### **4. Who should be reported for Highly Qualified?**

- Certified grades PK-12 core content area teachers in public school assignments;
- Special education teachers who provide direct instruction in one or more core content areas;
- English as a second language (ESL) teachers who provide direct instruction in one or more core content areas;
- Alternative education teachers who provide direct instruction in one or more core content areas; and
- Charter school teachers who provide direct instruction in one or more core content areas.

### **5. Who is the teacher of record?**

The teacher of record has the primary responsibility for direct instruction in one or more of NCLB’s core content areas. Refer to the [PIMS Manual](#) for required certificate information.

### **6. Can a school entity correct its PIMS report?**

Yes. An LEA may correct its PIMS reports after reviewing its data reports by resubmitting data before the collection period closes. Once the collection closes, the data is final and may not be changed.

**7. Are charter schools required to comply with the highly qualified teacher requirements?**

Yes, all teachers of core content areas must be reported.

**8. How do non-certified charter school teachers obtain the highly qualified designation?**

The teacher must apply for the Charter School Highly Qualified Designation using the online Teacher Information Management System (TIMS).

**9. Are teachers serving on emergency permits “highly qualified?”**

No.

**10. Who do I contact for assistance or further information regarding highly qualified status?**

Contact the PIMS Help Desk at 1-800-661-2423.