

Certification Staffing Assignment Physics 7-12

Physics is the scientific study of matter and energy, the formulation and testing of the laws governing the behavior of the matter and energy continuum.

Grade Level Scope of Certificate

Certification Assignment

Special Considerations

Restrictions

References

Summary of Changes

Grade Level Scope of Certificate:

A person holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for Physics is qualified to teach physics courses in grades 7 through 12.

Certification Assignment:

An educator holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for Physics is qualified to teach courses such as: physics, biophysics, physical science, general science, environmental science, astrophysics, nuclear physics, and chemical/atomic/molecular physics. It includes instruction in areas such as classical and modern physics, matter, energy, heat, thermodynamics, kinematics, gravitational forces/fields, optics, electricity and magnetic forces/fields, mechanics, nuclear processes, wave properties and sound, relativity and quantum theory, quantitative methods and laboratory methods, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses. (Other Instructional certificates may teach STEM courses based on course content and the type of credit being given.)

A person holding a certificate endorsed for a subject area which is limited to the secondary grades (7-12) is qualified for assignment only within the sixth (6th) grade in the subject area of the certificate they hold.

Certificate Clarification:

Older Pennsylvania public school certificates which are also applicable for teaching physics include the following:

- Physics and Mathematics
- Comprehensive Science
- Physical Science

Special Considerations:

An educator certified in this field may:

- Provide professional development;
- Serve in the role of mentor or advisor; and
- Assist students in understanding how to read content area materials.

Restrictions:

A Pennsylvania certified Physics teacher may not teach biology or chemistry, or earth and space science courses of study.

References:

Program Specific Guidelines for Certification.

PA Public School Code: §1202
§1212
§1604

22 PA Code: Chapter 4: §4.22(c)(3)
§4.23(c)

Chapter 49: §49.11
§49.81
§49.85

This revision supersedes all earlier CSPG's carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous printing dates on this subject: 2/61, 3/75, 8/76, 2/82, 1/87, 7/87, 12/90, 6/92, 7/04.

Summary of Changes

Date of Revisions	Major Changes to CSPG #56
12/1/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added staffing information for teaching STEM courses • Clarified content of the CSPG. • Added information about teaching sixth grade content with a 7-12 content certificate from CSPG #104.
7/1/2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSPG #56 – Physics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSPGs divided into five individual science CSPG categories. ○ Definitions of science categories were removed. ○ Physics course assignments: physics, biophysics, physical science, general science, astrophysics, nuclear physics, and chemical/atomic/molecular physics. ○ Content includes: matter, energy, heat, thermodynamics, kinematics, gravitational forces/fields, optics, electricity and magnetic forces/fields, mechanics, nuclear processes, wave properties and sound, relativity and quantum theory, quantitative methods and lab methods.
6/1/1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSPG #33 – Science Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Defines in detail sciences subject content area at specific levels (introductory/intermediate/advanced) and lists appropriate certificates.
3/1/1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSPG #33 – Science Certification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Categorized by High School Sciences and Junior High (Middle) School Sciences and Specialized Science Labs. ○ Physical Science certificate may teach: physics, chemistry, physical science, earth and space science courses.
2/1/1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College Certificates in Secondary Academic Subjects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 24 credits for a single certificate area; 40 credits for a comprehensive area. ○ Comprehensive Science: 40 credits and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ at least eight credits in biology, chemistry and physics; ▪ at least six credits in earth sciences: astronomy, geology, meteorology; and ▪ at least three credits in mathematics. ○ Earth and Space – 24 credits. ○ General Science – 24 credits. ○ Physics and Mathematics – 36 credits (12 in each of the two areas).