Certification Staffing Assignment
Earth & Space Science
(7-12)

Earth & Space Science describes the study of the earth and other planets as comprehensive physical systems, incorporating solid, liquid, gas, and radiation constituents, as well as exhibiting interactions with other systems. It includes planetary evolution, gravitational physics, atmospheric evolution, volcanism and crustal movement studies, global energy systems, organic systems and ecologies, oceanography, fluid dynamics, orbital mechanics, radiation physics, and the study of planetary and satellite systems.

Grade Level Scope of Certificate:
A person holding a valid PA certificate for Earth & Space Science is qualified to teach all earth & space science courses, introductory and/or advanced, in Grades 7 through 12.

Certification Assignment:
An educator holding a valid PA certificate for Earth & Space Science is qualified to teach courses in areas to include: earth and planetary science, geology, hydrology, oceanography, astronomy, climatology, atmospheric science and meteorology, paleontology, cartography, geomorphology, geochemistry, geophysics and seismology, general science, and environmental science.

At the middle level, the earth & space science educator will also provide science instruction, adjusted to the students’ abilities when below proficient.

Certificate Clarification:
Older PA public school certificates, which are applicable for teaching earth & space science courses, include the following:
- Comprehensive Science
- Physical Science
- Geography - only when the educator's preparation is in the area of physical geography and a minimum of 15 semester hours of academic credits in: geology, meteorology, astronomy, oceanography, or cartography.
Special Considerations:
An educator certified in this field may provide:
- Professional development
- Serve in the role of mentor or advisor
- May assist students in understanding how to read content area materials

Restrictions:
A PA certified earth & space science teacher may not teach courses in biology, chemistry, or physics.

References:
Program Specific Guidelines for Certification

22 PA Code: Chapter 4: §4.22(c)(3)
              §4.23(c)(3)
Chapter 49:
        §49.11
        §49.81
        §49.85(a)(4)

PA Public School Code: §1202
                       §1212
                       §1604

Other CSPG’s for Reference: General Science

This revision supersedes all earlier CSPG’s carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous printing dates on this subject: 3/75, 1/87, 7/87, 12/90, 6/92, 7/04, 6/05.