Essential Act 48 Information
Division of Planning

May, 2017
• General Information about Act 48
  – Who is affected by Act 48?
  – What must educators do to comply with Act 48?
  – When does the five-year period begin?
  – How will educators and public school entities know when the five-year period is over?
  – Are the continuing professional education requirements for school administrators the same as those that apply to teachers and other certified educators?
  – How can I view my progress toward meeting Act 48 requirements?
• Relationship between Act 48 and certification status
  – Does Act 48 apply to educators who have not yet converted their Instructional I Certificate to the Instructional II Certificate?
  – Does Act 48 eliminate Level II (permanent) certification?
  – Can the credits earned for Level II certification or a Letter of Master’s/Bachelor’s Equivalency be applied toward Act 48 requirements?
  – Can continuing education hours, continuing education units, or community college credits be applied toward obtaining a Level II Certificate or Letter of Master’s/Bachelor’s Equivalency?
• Active and Inactive Certificates
  – What happens to my certificate if I do not complete the requirements of Act 48?
  – Is there a process in place for a certificate holder who is not currently using their PA certificate to postpone meeting Act 48 requirements?
  – What is the difference between an “active/inactive” certificate and a “valid/invalid” certificate?
  – Must an educator who holds certificates for multiple areas maintain active status in all areas?
  – Will an individual with an inactive (including voluntary inactive) certificate be permitted to substitute in public schools?
• Active and Inactive Certificates (cont.)
  – What must be done to reactivate a Voluntary Inactive certificate?
  – How can I reactivate my certificate if it becomes inactive because requirements were not met?
  – Can an extension of the five-year period be obtained? What if circumstances prevent an educator from completing requirements in a timely manner?
  – Can a certificate holder appeal the department’s inactivation decision?
  – Whose responsibility is it to monitor an educator’s credits or hours?
• Further Questions

  – How can educators maintain active certificate status if they move out of Pennsylvania?
  
  – May hours or credits in excess of those required be carried over to the next five-year period? (Act 86)
  
  – Why is my current compliance period end date a year later than I thought it should be? (Act 118)
  
  – If I have retired, why is my status “active”? If I wish to return to full-time teaching, what do I need to do, and when do I have to start acquiring Act 48 hours again? (Act 5)
Educators in Private & Nonpublic Schools

• Act 48
  – How are educators holding a PA certificate but not employed by public school entities made aware of Act 48 requirements?
  – Must educators who hold public school certification but are serving in private or nonpublic (religious) schools comply with the provisions of Act 48?
Earning Act 48 Hours

• What counts toward Act 48 requirements?
  – What types of entities or organizations can grant Act 48 hours to educators?
  – What types of courses or noncredit programs and activities can be used for Act 48?
  – Whose responsibility is it to submit documentation of Act 48 credits/hours to PDE?
  – Can colleges or universities in PA award Act 48 hours for noncredit activities or programs?
  – Can educators earn Act 48 hours for presentations or speaking engagements? National Board Certification?
  – How can higher education faculty earn Act 48 hours?
For more information on Act 48, please e-mail

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Click here for Act 48 FAQ

The mission of the department is to academically prepare children and adults to succeed as productive citizens. The department seeks to ensure that the technical support, resources and opportunities are in place for all students, whether children or adults, to receive a high quality education.
For more information on Act 48, please visit PDE’s website at www.education.pa.gov

Select Act 48 and PERMS from the Teachers & Administrators menu.

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