

**Division of Professional Education and Teacher Quality**  
**Email Update**  
**June 18, 2015**

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**EXPANDED CALL CENTER AND CHAT SCHEDULE**

Beginning June 3, 2015 The Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality has expanded the Call Center and Chat schedule. Both phone calls and chat sessions will be available during the following hours on business days:

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- Tuesday 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
- Thursday 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The Call Center phone numbers remain the same, 717-728-3224 or 717-787-3356.

To start a chat session, go to Teachers & Administrators > Certifications on our website [www.education.pa.gov](http://www.education.pa.gov), and click “Chat with certification staff.”

**CERTIFICATES THAT MAY ADD SPECIAL EDUCATION THROUGH A PROGRAM COMPLETION**

We continue to receive several inquiries regarding the certificate areas that may add on Special Education by completing a program. We feel it would be beneficial for the Department to repost the policy in this email update.

The following certificate holders may enroll in a Special Education PK-8 program:

- N-3;
- K-6;
- Pre K-4;
- 4-8;
- K-12; and
- Reading Specialist.

The following certificate holders may enroll in a Special Education 7-12 program:

- 7-12;
- K-12; and
- Reading Specialist.

The Special Education Hearing Impaired, Speech and Language, and Visually Impaired instructional certificates do not qualify as content certificates under both HQT and Chapter

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49.85 and therefore certificate holders cannot add on the Special Education PK-8 or 7-12 certificate areas.

**A CALL FOR PRESENTATION PROPOSALS FOR THE 2016 BRIDGES CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED:**

The Bridges Conference has highlighted numerous higher education/K-12 education collaborative projects since its inception three years ago by Partners for Connections in Education (P4CE). P4CE, a nonprofit organization, provides bridge opportunities to bring colleges and universities together with K-12 schools to enrich the learning environment at all levels. The 2016 BRIDGES Conference is scheduled for April 27 to April 29, 2016 at the Cape May Convention Center, Cape May, NJ. The conference provides an opportunity for you to share innovative bridge projects that cut across multiple levels of education. If interested in submitting a proposal, a copy of the presentation proposal submission form must be submitted and returned to Dr. Michael Speziale at [Michael.speziale@wilkes.edu](mailto:Michael.speziale@wilkes.edu) by the submission deadline of August 15, 2015. Last year's conference program can be previewed at <http://www.p4ce.org> to give you a flavor for the bridge projects that were showcased.

**INITIAL AND MAJOR REVIEW PROGRAM SPECIFIC REVIEWERS NEEDED**

The Department is still in need of both initial and major review reviewers with expertise in the specialized content areas. We have provided a list of concentration areas attached to this email of the areas of need. If you are, or know, someone who may be interested in serving as a subject matter reviewer, please contact Charles Goulding at [cgoulding@pa.gov](mailto:cgoulding@pa.gov) or 717-772-3569.