

## APPROPRIATE CERTIFICATION IN CHARTER SCHOOLS IN PENNSYLVANIA

1. The Charter School Law, 24 P.S. §17-1724-A, requires that at least 75 percent of a charter school's professional staff hold appropriate state certification. In accordance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, all uncertified charter school core academic teachers must hold at least a bachelor's degree and must demonstrate competency in the core academic areas in which they teach. Competency must be demonstrated in accord with the state's definition of "highly qualified." (See CSPG 301)
2. Appropriate certification required to qualify an individual for assignment is determined through a position description and course content that lists specific duties to be performed/fulfilled. (See CSPG 1)
3. Charter school principals must be properly certified as required by 24 P.S. §11-1109 and meet Act 45 continuing education requirements.
4. Pursuant to 24 P.S. § 11-1109, charter school service as **principal, vice principal, or assistant principal must** be counted against the validity (service time) of the certificate.
5. A PIL induction program is required for conversion to an Administrative II certificate for any Administrative I certificate issued on or after January 1, 2008 or for those who received an Administrative certificate prior to January 1, 2008 and whose initial public or charter school service in the position of principal, vice or assistant principal occurred on or after January 1, 2008.
6. Administrators that began public or charter school service in a principal, vice, or assistant principal position prior to January 1, 2008, are not required to complete the PIL induction program.
7. If a charter/cyber school does not employ any individual in a position titled principal, but employs an individual in a locally titled position (i.e. school director) who performs all of the duties of a principal, the charter/cyber school must utilize an Administrative certified educator and identify the individual as **Principal** in PIMS/PERMS. Regardless of the local title given the position, if an individual serves in the position of **Principal** in a charter school, he/she must comply with all related Act 45 and PIL requirements. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may not create and utilize local titles to avoid the mandates of Act 45 and specifically 24 P.S. §11-1109.
8. For further clarification of the PIL requirements, refer to:

[PA Inspired Leadership](#)

Administrative-Supervisory Certificates

**References:** 24 P.S. §11-1109  
24 P.S. §17-1724-A

This revision supersedes all earlier CSPGs carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous CSPG printing dates on this subject: 7/04

Summary of Changes

<b>Date of Revisions</b>	<b>Major Changes to CSPG #024</b>
11/2015	<p>Charter school principals are subject to the certification requirements of 24 P.S. 11-1109 as well as Act 45 continuing education requirements, therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Charter school service as principal, vice principal, or assistant principal must be counted against the validity (service time) of the certificate.</li><li>• Principal, vice principal, or assistant principal must complete Act 45 and PIL requirements as specified.</li><li>• Educators performing principal, vice principal, or assistant principal service must be titled as such, and not given local titles.</li><li>• Individuals employed in a locally titled position (i.e. school director) who perform the duties of a principal, vice principal, or assistant principal in the charter school must be identified as <b>Principal</b> in PIMS/PERMS.</li></ul>