

NASDTAC Survey

24 states responded

Questions asked

1. Does your jurisdiction currently issue "Lifetime," "Permanent," or similar licenses with no expiration date? If "yes," what are the basic qualifications?
2. Did your jurisdiction previously issue "Lifetime," "Permanent," or similar licenses with no expiration date? If "yes," what were the basic qualifications?
3. If yes to question 2, to the best of your knowledge, why did your jurisdiction stop issuing lifetime licenses?
4. If no to questions 2 and 3, would your jurisdiction consider issuing lifetime licenses in the future (and why or why not)?

The formatting of the responses is really difficult so key details are summarized below:

Only three respondents have a lifetime/permanent license options

West Virginia - Yes for anyone not just retired educators. Hold or be eligible to hold a 5-year license and have a master's degree, and have 5 years of teaching experience in the area for which they are licensed. Or, have held the 5-year license twice (10 years) then they may convert to a permanent license. (We issue all initial teaching licenses as 3-year licenses that can be converted at the time of renewal to a 5-year license if they meet the criteria) To hold the 5-year one, they would have had to obtain the 3-year license, meet the requirements to convert to a 5-year and then meet the requirements to convert to a permanent one as described above.

Wyoming - has a Lifetime Substitute Permit. This is only available for applicants who held a current & valid license at the time of retirement AND who have retired from the profession. They must submit a letter from the school district they retired from indicating previous employment and date of retirement. Out-of-state retirees must also provide a copy of their OOS license which was valid at the time of retirement from an OOS school district, along with the district letter.

New Jersey - Yes, Hold an initial certificate, meet a minimum of 2 years of teaching under a provisional certificate, be mentored and have 2 effective or better evaluation ratings. For alternate route candidates, also complete an educator preparation program. Link to code:
<https://www.nj.gov/education/code/current/title6a/chap9b.pdf>

Kansas – State Board recently approved a "Legacy License" for retired educators which is a 20 year license available to educators who retired

Texas – Had lifetime licenses until 1999

Rhode Island – used to have lifetime license for educators with a Master's. no longer available

Connecticut – ended lifetime licenses in 1998

Missouri – ended in 1986

Michigan – ended practice approximately 20 years ago

New Hampshire – ended practice around 1973

Ohio ended the practice “ awhile ago”

South Carolina – Ended practice “decades ago,” however there is draft legislation to bring it back – the Office has testified against that bill.

Colorado - ended practice “so very long ago (like the 1990’s)”

Key findings/quotes from respondents:

“Michigan recognizes that like other professionals (physician, lawyers as an example) that educators need to continue to grow within their practice and thereby need to complete professional development requirements to stay abreast of the teaching, techniques and technologies used to enhance teaching K-12 students.”

“The primary concerns related to issuing a lifetime certificate to individuals who may not enter classroom practice for years and, at that point, without the knowledge and skills to be effective.”

“We will not consider them at this time because education is changing quickly and the legislature has indicated a need to support educators through licensure renewal in staying current in the field of education and learning research.”

Several state offices expressed concerns of lose of revenue to due to lose of fees.