

D. CSTC REQUIREMENTS

1. Membership in OCSTA

The candidate for the CSTC must be a member of the Ontario Christian School Teachers Association (OCSTA) and be employed as a teacher in an Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools (OACS) member school.

2. Degree

The candidate must have earned an approved¹ degree such as a Bachelor of Arts (BA), Bachelor of Science (BSc), Bachelor of Education (BEd), or Bachelor of Christian Education (BCEd) or Bachelor of Christian Studies (BCS).

3. Teacher Education Program

The candidate must have successfully completed an approved¹ teacher education program that led to a recognized teaching certificate.

4. Required Courses from Approved Institutions

4.1 The candidate must have successfully completed four approved¹ courses that cover the four areas of study indicated in #E.7

4.2 These courses must be taught from a Christian perspective from an approved degree-granting liberal arts institution. The following institutions have been approved:

- Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Dordt College, Sioux Center, Iowa
- Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania
- Hope College, Holland, Michigan
- Institute for Christian Studies, Toronto, Ontario
- The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta
- Redeemer University College, Ancaster, Ontario
- Reformed Bible College, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Trinity College, Chicago, Illinois
- Trinity Western University, Langley, British Columbia

4.3 Courses must be university-level semester courses of 3-4 credit hours per semester.

4.4 Courses may be part of the candidate's initial education (degree) program or may be taken afterwards.

5. Courses from Other Christian Institutions

5.1 Teachers who have taken similar courses from other Christian institutions can have these courses evaluated on an individual basis by the

¹ Approved by the Credentials Committee

Credentials Committee. The Committee may approve up to two such courses.

- 5.2 One course from another Christian institution may be considered eligible for credit toward a CSTC. Candidates requesting this consideration must provide the Credentials Committee with the course description and a statement of principles or philosophy of the institution.
- 5.3 Where the Credentials Committee is persuaded that a second course, taken at another Christian institution, is of a Reformed character, it may approve one additional course. The candidate must present clear evidence that will persuade the committee.

6. **Independent Study**

An applicant may request from the Credentials Committee permission to complete an independent study in lieu of one course. Applicants must apply for approval prior to beginning the independent study and work under a supervisor who is agreed upon by both the applicant and the Credentials Committee. The independent study must meet the general description of the Area of Study for which it is requested, specifically the provision and development of a Reformed perspective. Examples of an independent study include a research project for classroom use, a major curriculum project or a detailed course outline.

7. **CSTC Areas of Study**

The four courses must cover the following areas of study:

7.1 **Theological Studies (Biblical Foundations)**

Courses in this area of study are to provide a Reformed perspective and are to assist in developing a Reformed understanding of the Scriptures and their relationship to the Christian life.

7.2 **Philosophical Studies (Philosophy of Education)**

Courses in this area of study are to provide a Reformed perspective and are to assist in developing an awareness of the theoretical and cultural assumptions underlying specific educational practices.

7.3 **Instructional/Curricular Studies (Psychology of Education)**

Courses in this area of study are to provide a Reformed perspective and are to assist in developing an awareness of the relationship of learning, instruction and program.

7.4 **Christian Worldview Studies**

Courses in this area of study are to provide a Reformed perspective and are to assist in defining the relationship between the Christian faith and its cultural expression and may include areas of educational practice such as Canadian education or other specific subjects.

8. **Interim and Regular Certificates**

- 8.1 A teacher who has completed the academic requirements for the CSTC but has not taught successfully in an OACS/CSI affiliated school may apply for an *interim* certificate.
- 8.2 To receive a *regular* CSTC, the teacher must submit an original letter and signature from the principal confirming she/he has taught successfully for two years.
- 8.3 The salary category placement for teachers who have an interim or regular CSTC is category IV.