

## Facts about the ABCTE Certification Process

On May 1, Gov. Matt Blunt signed Senate Bill 1066, authorizing another form of alternative certification of teachers in Missouri. The law takes effect August 28, 2008. It will allow persons who hold a certificate from the American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) to be eligible for a regular Missouri teaching certificate in these areas:

- English/Language Arts
- Biology
- Chemistry
- General Science
- Mathematics
- Physics
- U.S./World History

By law, ABCTE certificate-holders are NOT eligible for a regular Missouri license in the areas of early childhood education, elementary education or special education.

### **Candidates for the ABCTE-based certificate must:**

- Hold a bachelor's degree with a 2.5 overall GPA and meet ABCTE requirements;
- Earn a certificate from ABCTE by passing an ABCTE exam (about \$850);
- Complete a Missouri Background Check: [www.iisfingerprint.com](http://www.iisfingerprint.com); and
- Verify teaching/substitute teaching experience (60 classroom hours). See form provided by DESE.

Successful applicants will be issued an Initial Professional Certificate by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Once employed, ABCTE certificate-holders will be subject to the same mentoring and professional development requirements that apply to all new teachers in Missouri public schools.

### **Application Procedure**

Application forms for the ABCTE-based certificate are available now. Certificates will not be issued until after August 28, but candidates may begin the application process and background clearance at any time.

### **For More Information**

Visit [www.abcte.org](http://www.abcte.org) to learn more about the ABCTE examination process and fees. Contact the Education Certification Section at [webreplyteachcert@dese.mo.gov](mailto:webreplyteachcert@dese.mo.gov)