

Professional Development Points (PDPs): Quick Facts

Educators must earn a total of 30 professional development points (PDPs) to advance¹ or a total of 60 PDPs to renew a teacher license including professional, professional occupational, and professional school services personnel license. Activities qualifying for PDPs must be related to improving educator effectiveness by:

1. developing content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, or pedagogical content knowledge; or
2. enhancing educator effectiveness (e.g., world language courses for those working with students for whom English is a second language, coursework that supports understanding and use of data).

Activities not related to improving educator effectiveness do not qualify for PDPs. Examples include but are not limited to athletic coaching or clinics, bus driver competitions, club sponsors, choral/ band presentations, band camp director, or religious education. The following table provides information about how PDPs may be earned.

Option	PDPs Awarded	Required Documentation
Training ²	1 clock hour = 1 PDP	Certificate, transcript, or verification signed by Director of Schools (or designee)
Continuing Education ³	1 continuing education unit (CEU) = 5 PDPs	Certificate or transcript
College/University Coursework ⁴	1 semester hour credit = 10 PDPs	Transcript
Overall level of effectiveness rating (approved TN model)	Overall Score of 5 = 20 PDPs, 4 = 15 PDPs, and 3 = 10 PDPs	Information maintained by the department. No further documentation required; points may be accrued annually
National Board Certification	30 PDPs	Official documentation from NBPTS

- a. Activities must be completed within the validity period of the license being advanced or renewed.
- b. College/University coursework must be completed at regionally accredited institutions.
- c. At the time of advancement or renewal, if the educator is employed in a Tennessee public school, the local education agency (LEA) must retain documentation for each completed activity for which the educator is awarded PDPs. The LEA must verify that educators accrued sufficient, approvable PDPs to qualify for advancement or renewal.
- d. At the time of advancement or renewal, if the educator is NOT employed in a Tennessee public school, appropriate documentation for all activities for which PDPs are requested must be provided to the office of educator licensing and preparation.
- e. Reasons for PDP denial include, but are not limited to:
 - activity not related to improving educator effectiveness,
 - activity conducted during school hours (contracted day),
 - activity utilized to meet five-day (30-hour) in-service requirement (T.C.A. § 49-6-3004),
 - activity conducted outside the validity period of the license (effective dates),
 - activity lacks adequate documentation, or
 - duplicate activity.

¹Not required for advancement if educator obtains the signature of the director of schools.

²Training consists of in-service > 30 hours; school, district, state activities; or academy, institute, seminar, conference attendance.

³Continuing Education consists of activities provided by institutions of higher education or professional associations which do not result in academic credit leading to a degree. Certificate/transcript must indicate number of CEUs awarded.

⁴College/University Coursework consists of activities whose credit may be transferred/applied to a program that may result in the award of a degree.