

Virginia Department of Education  
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**VIRGINIA'S PLAN TO LIMIT THE USE OF THE HIGH OBJECTIVE  
UNIFORM STATE STANDARD OF EVALUATION (HOUSSE)**

Teachers hired prior to the end of 2005-2006 who are using HOUSSE to obtain the highly qualified designation will be allowed to complete the HOUSSE process. It is expected that these teachers will complete HOUSSE procedures to attain the highly qualified status by the end of the 2007-2008 school year.

Teachers who have met previously approved criteria by the Virginia Department of Education will continue to be designated highly qualified.

Virginia will eliminate the HOUSSE provision by June 30, 2008, with the following exceptions:

1. New special education teachers who teach multiple core academic subjects, and who are highly qualified in either mathematics, language arts, or science at the time they are hired will have two years to use HOUSSE or to demonstrate content area competency through appropriate rigorous testing or coursework as allowed by federal flexibility provisions.
2. Teachers who teach multiple secondary subjects in school districts eligible to participate in the Small, Rural School Achievement program and are highly qualified in at least one core academic subject at the time of hire will have three years to demonstrate competence in other subject areas as allowed by federal flexibility provisions.
3. Teachers who come to the United States from other countries to teach on a temporary basis will have three years to use HOUSSE as allowed by federal flexibility provisions.

4. Fully licensed teachers not new to the profession who are returning to teaching after an extended absence may have up to two years to become highly qualified using HOUSSE.
5. Multi-subject teachers not new to the profession who are already highly qualified in one subject area, but who have been reassigned to a different subject area may have up to two years to become highly qualified using HOUSSE.
6. Teachers not new to the profession hired before the end of the 2005-06 school year who began the HOUSSE process will be allowed to complete it no later than the end of the 2007-08 school year.
7. Special education teachers new or not new to the profession as described in IDEA 300.18(c) (teaching one or more academic subjects only to children with disabilities held to alternative achievement standards) may have up to two years to become highly qualified using HOUSSE.
8. Special education teachers not new to the profession as described in IDEA 300.18(b)(3)(consulting teachers) who have been reassigned to teach core academic subjects may have up to two years to become highly qualified using HOUSSE.

Note: Virginia will recognize the highly qualified designation of teachers from another state or the District of Columbia.