

Highly Qualified Elementary Teachers (K-6)

A highly qualified elementary teacher (K-6) who is **new** to the profession is one who is fully licensed to teach in Tennessee (including the specified alternative routes) with no licensure requirements waived, holds at least a bachelor's degree, and has passed one of the Praxis teacher licensure tests designated on the test options list (see Appendix A) for the assigned teaching area.

A highly qualified **existing** elementary teacher (K-6) who is not new to the profession is one who is fully licensed to teach in Tennessee (including the specified alternative routes) with no licensure requirements waived, holds at least a bachelor's degree, and has:

- passed one of the NTE or Praxis teacher licensure tests designated on the test options list in Appendix A, or
- achieved National Board Certification at the elementary level, or
- demonstrated competence in reading, writing, mathematics and other areas of basic elementary school curriculum via a highly objective uniform state standard of evaluation (HOUSSE). (See section on Evaluation Options)

