



*The Advocate*  
Summer 2021

### *Ask An Expert*

Each newsletter we will profile one question from our *Ask An Expert* function on our webpage.

**Question from our member:** Living in New Jersey, I was told the state does not recognize a national certification. That it is not needed. Is it true that only 12 credits in adapted area are needed to teach an adapted class? Can you confirm? Or can a certified PE teacher teach adapted classes without 12 credits?

**From our expert Garth Tymeson:** Hello Mr. A: Thank you for contacting the National Consortium on Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities with your question. I'll provide some information, but I may need more information from you to best assist.

As you know, all states have different teaching licenses, certifications, credentials, etc. Although states have to comply with federal education laws, they still retain just about all teaching license requirements. You mention that the state does not recognize a national certification. I assume you mean the National APE CAPE certification that is part of the NCPEID. To my knowledge, there is only one state, Alaska, that recognizes the CAPE credential. However, many, many districts throughout the country view it as an indicator of highly qualified status in APE teaching and require it for hiring. In addition, there are about 12-13 states that have a separate add-on APE teaching license or certification. I'm not aware of NJ having any type of add-on APE license. However, districts can and should hire the best qualified teachers who are going to provide adapted or specially designed PE for students with disabilities.

You mention about 12 credits being needed in the adapted area. I'm not sure what you mean by that? Are you referring to the 12 credits of APE course work that may be needed to qualify to take the exam for national CAPE recognition? Again, all states differ with their various teaching license requirements. For example, here in Wisconsin, there are about 5-6 college courses in APE that are required to attain our state APE teaching license. In addition, universities differ in how they structure their PE and APE teacher preparation programs and the number of APE credits that are required. I am just not sure what you are referring to when you ask about the 12 credits in the APE area?

You ask if a certified PE teacher can teach an adapted PE class without 12 hours. Again, we would hope that a school district has the most qualified teacher to instruct special education students in APE situations, but this differs from state to state and district to district. Some states have hard and fast requirements in this area, many others do not.



I would recommend you contact your State Department of Education and talk with the Teaching Certification and Licensing Office. You may want to also talk with the folks at the State Department of Ed who deal with special education teaching licenses.

I have also included Dr. Tim Davis in this email. Dr. Davis is our expert on the APENS (Adapted Physical Education National Standards) and CAPE certification (Certified Adapted Physical Educator). He's at SUNY Cortland and may be familiar with the NJ situation. Tim may be helpful with some of your questions since he deals with many districts in various states.

Finally, it may help if you and I talk on the phone so we are on the same page about your circumstances and the situation. You know how things can get very confused via email translation. I'd be happy to talk with you in confidence if you think it may help. My cell is 608-792-9132. I regularly consult with districts, teachers, and parents regarding various adapted physical education matters.

Regards, Garth

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