

# WELCOME TO THE OHIO RESIDENT EDUCATOR PROGRAM

*Important information for those entering the teaching profession in Ohio*



The Ohio Resident Educator Program is a four-year induction system that provides new teachers with support from a mentor and additional professional development during the first years of teaching. Once hired, Ohio schools must register beginning teachers in the residency program, which they need to successfully complete to qualify for a five-year professional educator license (*Ohio Revised Code 3301-24-18*).

Schools and districts are responsible for determining eligibility of their beginning teachers for the Resident Educator program and for assigning them each with a certified mentor.

## **What are the benefits of the Ohio Resident Educator Program?**

This residency period helps beginning teachers:

- Receive ongoing, job-embedded, professional development focused on helping them achieve proficiency in instructional and assessment practices.
- Analyze their teaching practice using ongoing formative assessment feedback and suggestions for professional growth from a trained mentor.
- Reflect on teaching practices and set goals to improve student learning.
- Base their teaching practices on the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession.
- Prepare for successfully completing the Resident Educator Summative Assessment, which is required to qualify for a five-year professional educator license.
- Prepare for future district/school leadership opportunities.

## **What steps should Ohio's beginning teachers take to get started in the Resident Educator program?**

- Attend Resident Educator orientation at their school or district.
- Connect with the Resident Educator program coordinator who directs the school or district program. The program coordinator is responsible for registering all resident educators in the State's CORE system by Nov. 15 of each year. At the end of each year, he or she must indicate in CORE whether participants completed or did not complete the program for the year.

- Ensure they are assigned a certified mentor (a certified mentor has completed both Instructional Mentoring – 1 and Resident Educator trainings).
- Complete each year’s requirements, including the Formative Progress Review.
- Consult the department’s website at [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) to stay aware of program updates. Search for *resident educator program*.



### **How do I apply for a Resident Educator or Alternate Resident Educator license?**

The first step in applying for a Resident Educator or Alternative Resident Educator license is to apply for a SAFE account by accessing the SAFE link at the top of [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov). In addition to the last four digits of the applicant’s Social Security number, the applicant will need either an Ohio driver’s license number or state of Ohio identification number (available from an Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles office). Those without one of these two forms of identification will find instructions in the SAFE creation menu about uploading another acceptable form of identification.

Once the SAFE account is validated, applicants should log into SAFE and verify that their email addresses are entered correctly. Once logged into SAFE, they can begin an application by accessing ODE.CORE and the My Educator Profile licensure system.

### **Are BCI and FBI background checks required to teach in Ohio?**

Yes. As part of the process of applying for first-time Ohio educator licensure, applicants must successfully complete both BCI and FBI background checks through the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI). For more details, see [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and search for background checks.

### **To learn more:**

Visit [education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov) and search for *teachers* for information on all aspects of teaching in Ohio. Also, search for *resident educator program* and review eligibility requirements, program overview (including the orientation PowerPoint) and the latest news and activities outlined for completion in each year of the program.