Accreditation of new scheme teachers in NSW public schools

All new scheme teachers are required to achieve and maintain accreditation with the NSW Institute of Teachers at the level of Proficient.

Achieving accreditation at the level of Proficient (Professional Competence) is required for all teachers (permanent, casual or temporary) who have
- not been employed to teach in NSW schools before 1 October, 2004, or
- not been employed as a teacher in NSW schools at any time during the last five years.

NSW is now starting to use the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers that have been agreed to by all Australian states and territories. The term Proficient will replace the term Professional Competence to refer to the level of accreditation. The NSW Institute of Teachers manages teacher accreditation.

Accreditation at Proficient is achieved by permanently appointed teachers in NSW public schools during their first year of teaching and is aligned with probation.

Permanent part-time teachers are expected to demonstrate the standards within the equivalent of twelve months of full-time service.

Casual and temporary teachers have a five year period in which to achieve accreditation.

Casual and temporary teachers are eligible to be accredited after they have taught for at least 180 days in NSW schools. Within this period, a block of continuous teaching is required. The block is the equivalent of at least one school term across no more than the equivalent of five school terms.

Maintenance of accreditation continues throughout an accredited teacher’s career. It is achieved through continued demonstration of teaching practice at the level of Proficient and participation in professional development.

Permanent teachers who are employed full time have five years to complete each maintenance of accreditation phase.

Casual, temporary and part time teachers have seven years to complete each maintenance of accreditation phase.

Supporting new scheme teachers

Principals work with teachers to meet the requirements of accreditation. They complete a principal’s report and an accreditation report. Directors, Public Schools NSW oversee the quality of support and supervision of new scheme teachers in schools and monitor the consistency of principals’ recommendations.

Accreditation data

As at December 2012, about 8,600 permanent public school teachers had been accredited at the level of Professional Competence/Proficient.

Thirteen probationary teachers failed to meet the required level of teacher performance (and therefore were ineligible for accreditation at Professional Competence) in the 2012 calendar year.