

# Non-practising Teacher Accreditation Procedure

Information for K-12, early childhood and non-school/service based teachers

October 2025

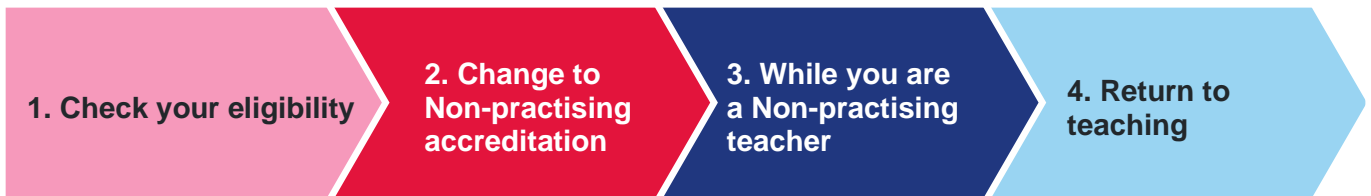
# Why become a Non-practising teacher?

If you are planning not to teach in a NSW school/service but wish to remain accredited and connected to the teaching profession, you may choose Non-practising teacher accreditation. This puts your accreditation timeframe on hold indefinitely and provides for a seamless return to teaching in a school/service in the future. You can change to active accreditation at any time to return to teach.

**It is important to note that you cannot teach in any NSW school or service as a Non-practising teacher.**

## Overview of Non-practising Teacher Accreditation

### At a glance



## 1. Check your eligibility

To apply for Non-practising teacher:

- you must be accredited at Proficient Teacher or above
- your accreditation must not be suspended or overdue for submitting maintenance requirements.

### Who may be suited to being a Non-practising teacher?

Non-practising accreditation is voluntary. Teachers who have moved to the following roles for a longer period of time, may consider changing to non-practising accreditation:

- Non-school based roles in education sector office
- Non-service based roles in early childhood employer office
- Education union employees
- NESA employees
- early intervention
- inclusion support
- university lecturers.

You can find out more to help you decide whether Non-practising accreditation may suit your situation on the NESA website.

## 2. Change your accreditation to Non-practising teacher

Change your accreditation from active to Non-practising teacher in your NESA online account (eTAMS). The start date must be on the date you apply or a date in the future.

Non-practising accreditation cannot be backdated.

## 3. While you are a Non-practising teacher

Your accreditation status changes from active to Non-practising on the NSW Public Register of Teachers.

If you become a Non-practising teacher, your maintenance of accreditation timeframe will be placed on hold until you return to active accreditation.

### Highly Accomplished and Lead Teachers

If you are a Highly Accomplished or Lead Teacher (HALT) you can be a Non-practising teacher for a maximum of 5 years. If you return to active accreditation after 5 years of being away from teaching, your accreditation status will revert to Proficient Teacher.

While you are a Non-practising teacher you:

- must pay the annual teacher accreditation fee
- must hold a current Working with Children Check clearance
- remain subject to suitability to teach requirements
- are not required to complete professional development (PD) (but may choose to) or to demonstrate practice against the Standards
- cannot finalise your maintenance requirements.

### Keep records of your PD

If you plan to meet your PD requirements by the end of your accreditation timeframe when you return to teaching, you should keep a record of any PD you complete while you are a Non-practising teacher. You will need to declare that you have kept a record and that you can provide this record to NESA if you are selected for random audit when you finalise your maintenance of accreditation.

## 4. Return to teaching

You can return to active accreditation at any time by changing your status in your NESA online account (eTAMS).

## **Accreditation timeframes when returning to teaching**

If you are a Non-practising teacher for a period of less than 6 consecutive months, your maintenance due date will remain the same as your original due date.

If you return to active accreditation after a period of between 6 months and 5 years, your previous maintenance timeframe will automatically be adjusted when you return to reflect the time you were accredited as a Non-practising teacher.

If you have held Non-practising teacher accreditation for more than 5 years, you will start a new maintenance period, if you return to active accreditation. Any PD activities that you completed before you reactivate your accreditation will not transfer to the new maintenance period.

## **NSW Public Register of Teachers**

Your accreditation status will change from Non-practising to active on the NSW Public Register of Teachers.

## **‘What if’ scenarios**

### **What if I want to be an Accreditation Supervisor or a HALT Assessor but am a Non-practising teacher?**

---

While you are a Non-practising teacher, you cannot teach in any NSW school or service, but you can fulfil the role of Accreditation Supervisor or HALT Assessor as a Non-practising teacher.

However, you cannot make Proficient Teacher accreditation recommendations or HALT maintenance verifications.

### **What if I do not maintain a current Working with Children Check clearance while I’m a Non-practising teacher?**

---

Non-practising teachers must hold a current Working with Children Check clearance.

If you do not provide NESA with the details of a current Working with Children Check clearance, your accreditation will be suspended.

### **What if I want to move straight from a Leave of Absence to Non-practising teacher accreditation?**

---

You cannot be on a Leave of Absence and a Non-practising teacher at the same time.

You first need to end your Leave of Absence in your NESA online account (eTAMS), so that you return to an active accreditation status at Proficient Teacher or higher. Refer to [the Leave of Absence procedure](#) for conditions on returning to teach.

You must pay any outstanding NESA fees.

You may then apply for Non-practising accreditation in your NESA online account (eTAMS).

---

# NSW Education Standards Authority

---

NSW Education Standards Authority  
GPO Box 5300  
Sydney NSW 2001  
Australia

Teacher Accreditation  
Phone: 1300 739 338  
Email: [contactus@nesa.nsw.edu.au](mailto:contactus@nesa.nsw.edu.au)  
[nsw.gov.au/NESA](http://nsw.gov.au/NESA)

@NewsAtNESA

---