



The Connecting Link
Continuing Education for Teachers

Massachusetts PDP & Salary-Advancement Rules

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) distinguishes between degree-eligible and non-degree-eligible graduate credit when converting coursework to Professional Development Points (PDPs), and district salary lanes typically follow the same transcripts. Here's a look at what the rule asks for and how a TCL course is built.

Where TCL Coursework Stands

1

Advanced degree-eligible graduate credit

Every TCL graduate course is graduate-level and reviewed by our university partners — qualifying for the full 22.5 PDPs per semester hour, not the 7.5 given to non-degree-eligible credit.

2

Issued through an accredited university

The graduate credits are issued by one of our regionally accredited university partners.

3

Documented on an official university transcript

Once a course is completed, the graduate credits and letter grade are documented on an official university transcript.

4

A qualified, experienced instructor of record

Every TCL course has an instructor of record with a master's degree or higher and at least five years of classroom experience.

5

Real instructor feedback

Instructors review each participant's coursework and send back individualized written feedback tied to the course objectives, rather than a generic completion note.

University Partners

Please visit <https://www.connectinglink.com/massachusetts> to view a list of compliant university partners. Degree-eligibility letters will be available to download.

The Connecting Link is also an approved DESE provider to issue PDPs when courses are completed for non-credit — doe.mass.edu/pd/search/details.aspx?id=4193.

Participants are responsible for confirming approval with their school, district, or state before enrolling, including verifying that the issuing university partner meets the requirements for salary advancement or PDP credit. The Connecting Link does not guarantee credit will be accepted for salary advancement purposes; eligibility is determined solely by the participant's district.