

## Eligibility to Teach Bridge to College Courses

In order to maintain the integrity of the Bridge to College courses and the associated college placement agreement, Bridge to College teachers must **annually** maintain their eligibility to teach the course. To meet the various schedules and needs of teachers, we offer several professional learning (PL) options.

	Requirements	Eligibility
<b>New Teachers:</b> 35 hours of PL	Complete New Teacher Institute the summer before teaching the course (15 hours), <b>and:</b>	Eligible to teach the course the year of the initial training; classified as <b>NEW</b>
	Participate in Communities of Practice (20 hours) during the first year of teaching the course.  <b>Note: CoPs meet in various modalities throughout the academic year. This includes 2 full-day meetings in-person (5 hours each), 3 virtual synchronous meetings (2 hours each), and 2 virtual asynchronous activities (2 hours each).</b>	Eligible to teach the course the year after the initial training year; classified as <b>RETURNING</b> for the following year
<b>Returning Teachers:</b> at least 5 hours of PL	Complete <b>one</b> of these options after September 1 of the current school year and prior to the start of the next school year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participate in a CoP during the school year</li> <li>• Complete an approved college classroom observation and submit a reflection</li> <li>• Attend the Returning Teacher Summer Institute in August, either in-person or online</li> <li>• Participate in a different option as offered by BtC leadership (attend or view a webinar in Canvas)</li> </ul> <b>Note: Returning teachers have from September 1 through August 31 of the <i>current</i> school year to complete their professional learning requirement in order to be eligible to teach BtC in the <i>following</i> school year.</b>	Eligible to teach for the next school year. Must be completed each year teaching the course

## Frequently Asked Questions

**What if I completed the new teacher summer institute in the past, but then did not teach the course, but now I am teaching it for the next school year? Am I a new or a returning teacher?**

Only teachers who have taught the course and participated in all the associated professional learning (new teacher institute, Community of Practice) are considered Returning Teachers. You are still a New Teacher and will need to complete all the required professional learning associated with a New Teacher. You may choose the virtual New Teacher Institute.

**What happens if a new teacher can NOT attend the in-person New Teacher Institute?**

There is a virtual New Teacher Institute. In mid-August any new teacher registered to teach the course in Smartsheet not attending the in-person New Teacher Institute will be sent the information about the virtual institute and are required to complete it by September 1.

**Are there online options for the school year new teacher professional learning requirements?**

Each new teacher will be assigned a Community of Practice (CoP) that will meet seven times per year in a variety of modalities for a total of 20 hours. Two of these meetings are in-person and 5 hours each, requiring teachers to have substitutes provided by their district to attend. **The remaining offerings are a combination of synchronous and asynchronous virtual engagement outside of the school day.**

**What happens when a new teacher misses one of CoP meetings?**

New teachers may miss up to five hours of school year professional learning. If they miss more than five hours, then they will still be classified as a New Bridge to College Teacher for the next school year rather than a Returning teacher.

**What happens if a teacher has taught Bridge to College in the past, but not last year, and is now teaching it again?**

If it has only been two years since they taught the course, they should complete the requirements of a returning teacher by September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to be eligible to teach it for the next year.

If it has been more than two years since the teacher taught the course, they are considered a new teacher and need to participate in the professional learning requirements as outlined for New teachers.