Exploring Certification rates and Time to Certification
Source: CUNY University Dean for Education

Academic Year of Graduation
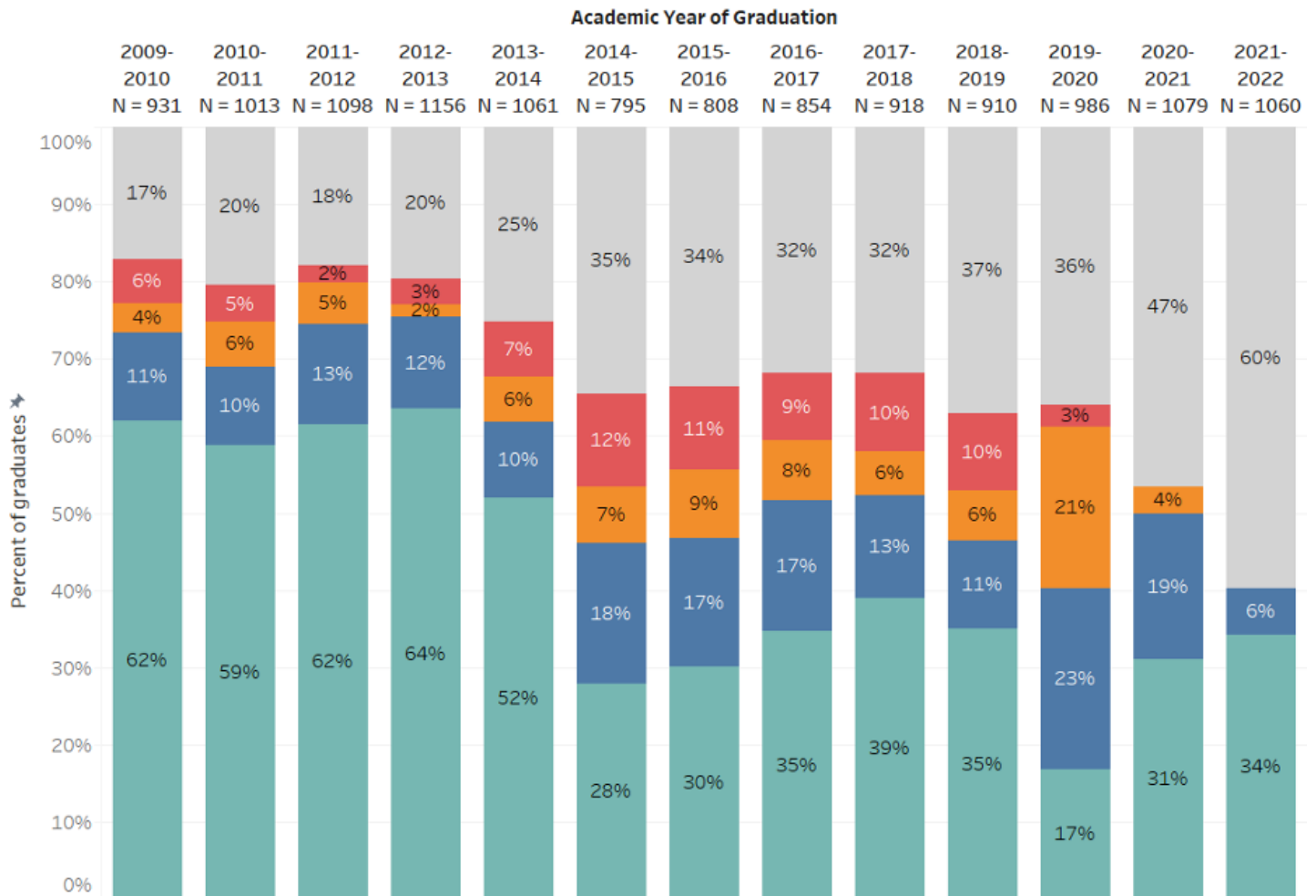
Certification status as of March 29, 2023
Source: CUNY Institutional Research Database and NYSED TEACH Certification Data

Years to certification
- Never Certified
- 3 or more years after October after graduation
- 2 years after October after graduation
- 1 year after October after graduation
- Before the October after graduation

Caption. This graph shows the percentage of baccalaureate education graduates from a given academic year certified as teachers in NYS categorized by the time elapsed between their graduation and when they earned certification.

Narrative. Before 2013-14, nearly two-thirds of CUNY's baccalaureate graduates were certified before the October following their graduation. An additional 17-21% were eventually certified after October with only about 20% never achieving certification. In 2014-15, as new NYS Teacher Certification Exams were introduced, the percentage earning certification before October dropped below 30%, with many more graduates taking a year or more to get certified. The percentage certified before October improved over the next several years, but one-third of graduates from 2014-15 to 2017-18 were never certified. Certification rates dipped again for 2018-19 grads before COVID, which led to large delays in certification in 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Rates now seem to be recovering to pre-COVID levels. (Emergency COVID certs not included in analysis.)

Making Sense
1. What is the first thing you think about or wonder when you see this graph?
    a. *What does each bar represent?*
    b. *What do the four colors in each bar mean?*
    c. *What does the height/size of the colors in the bar mean?*
2. What do you notice in the graph?
    a. *Describe some of the patterns you see.*
    b. *Why is the gray region in the bar starting in 2014-2015?*
    c. *Why is there no red region for 2020-2021 or no yellow or red regions for 2021-2022?*

Personal Connections
3. Do you have a personal connection with the data or patterns in this graph? Why or why not? Which people or groups do you think would feel more or less of a connection with the data or patterns here?
    a. *What does this visualization say about education programs, courses, or faculty?*
    b. *What trends do you notice during the time period you've been employed at CUNY?*
    c. *Are you or were you certified to teach in New York State or another state? What factors impacted your journey or your friends'/colleagues' journeys to certification? How does your experience, or lack thereof, impact how you think about this graph?*
4. Does this graph help you understand how teacher certification rates affect you? What other information would you want or need to better understand how teacher certification affects you?
    a. *Does this graph help us understand* why *teacher certification rates are important to CUNY?*
    b. *What do we know about what lower teacher certification rates mean for CUNY, NYC DOE, and public education at large?*

Context and History
5. Who do you think made this graph? Why did they collect this information and create this graph? What did they want to know?

6. What could you do to this dataset/graph to make it more useful for yourself or others who might not be included here? For example, would you collect more data, group or graph the data differently, take different measurements, or focus on certain parts of the data?
    a. *How could you include faculty who teach undergraduate education students but don't specifically work with them on certification and career-related activities?*
    b. *Is there something you could do to help colleges better understand how their students are faring?*
7. What are some reasons for the patterns you see? How might these patterns be different if the data had been collected in a different time period?

Future Uses of Data
8. What are some questions you can use this data or graph to answer? What are some questions this data or graph cannot help answer?
9. If you had to write an article about teacher shortages based on this graph, what would the headline be? What might be missing from that article?
10. What else does this activity make you want to know about?