Circular 59764/Θ1/15-05-2026 "Guidelines for the implementation of article 83 of Law 5291/2026 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 49), in conjunction with the issued Joint Ministerial Decision (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 2650, Online Publication Number (ΑΔΑ):9ΒΝΦ46ΝΚΠΔ-ΠΨΖ), concerning the procedure for the transfer of seconded primary or secondary school teachers to ecclesiastical legal entities under public law supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs"

Regulatory Framework

Pursuant to article 83 of Law 5291/2026 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 49), a Joint Ministerial Decision was issued (GG, Vol. B', Iss. 2650, ΑΔΑ: 9ΒΝΦ46ΝΚΠΔ-ΠΨΖ), entitled "Procedure for the transfer of seconded primary or secondary school teachers to the Central Service, regional and decentralized services, or supervised entities of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports pursuant to paragraph 16 of article 6 of Law 2740/1999 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 186), required supporting documents and regulation of related matters". This Decision specifies the terms and conditions, the competent bodies and the procedure for carrying out such transfers. Permanent teachers in primary or secondary education who, as of the effective date of the law, namely March 30, 2026, have been serving on secondment for at least five (5) consecutive years, including the 2025–2026 school year, at the Central Service, regional and decentralized services, or supervised entities of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, may, upon application, be transferred to the host entity where they are currently serving. It should be noted that teachers transferred under this provision are required to serve at the receiving entity for at least five (5) years from the completion of the transfer. During this period, no new transfer, secondment or reassignment is permitted.

Specifically, article 9 of the aforementioned Joint Ministerial Decision (Chapter C) provides for the possibility of transferring permanent public school teachers to ecclesiastical legal entities under public law supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs. Pursuant to this article, this circular provides instructions and clarifications concerning the procedure for submitting and reviewing applications for the transfer of permanent primary or secondary school teachers to the aforementioned ecclesiastical legal entities under public law.

Eligibility

The following are eligible to participate:

- Permanent primary or secondary school teachers for whom an official act confirming their permanent appointment has been issued, given that for a transfer application to be admissible, the teacher must have been granted permanent status (article 9, paragraph 4 of the Joint Ministerial Decision), and
- Teachers who meet the requirements of article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision, namely, those who, as of the effective date of paragraph 16 of article 6 of Law 2740/1999 (GG, Vol. Α΄, Iss. 186), namely March 30, 2026, have been serving on secondment under any provision, for at least five (5) consecutive years, without interruption, including the current school year 2025–2026, at the same ecclesiastical legal entities under public law, which are supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.

Examples of application:

A) A teacher who, during the current school year, is in their fourth year of a continuous secondment does not fall within the scope of the relevant provision.

B) A teacher who served in the Holy Metropolis A during the 2024–2025 and 2025–2026 (current) school years and in the Holy Metropolis B during the 2023–2024, 2022–2023 and 2021–2022 school years, does not fall within the scope of the provision.

Requirements for the transfer of permanent teachers to positions of ecclesiastical employees - eligibility requirements for participation in the process

Transfers are made:

- To existing vacant permanent positions for ecclesiastical employees under Presidential Decree 14/2023 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 30), concerning the Church of Greece and the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece; Presidential Decree 15/2023 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 30), concerning the Church of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Crete; and article 335 of Law 4957/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), concerning the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, as they have arisen (e.g. as a result of the departure of an ecclesiastical employee for any reason) and exist at the time the teacher concerned submits their transfer application, in accordance with the annual public sector recruitment plan.
- To branches for which the interested parties possess the required formal qualifications.
  It is noted that the total number of vacant permanent positions for ecclesiastical employees under Presidential Decree 14/2023 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 30), Presidential Decree 15/2023 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 30), and article 335 of Law 4957/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141), as determined by an act of the Council of Ministers, is final and may not be amended retroactively.

Where the number of candidates eligible for transfer exceeds the number of existing vacant permanent positions available for transfer as of the application deadline, priority shall be given, in the following order, to teachers holding master's degrees related to: (a) Public Administration, (b) Economics, and (c) Educational Administration.

In the event of equivalent qualifications, and after the application of the preceding paragraph, the number of years of secondment to the service/entity to which they are to be transferred shall be taken into account. In the event of equivalent qualifications as described in the preceding paragraphs, their total years of service in education shall be taken into account. During the evaluation by the competent council, any other information contained in their applications and the accompanying supporting documents shall also be taken into account.

Host entities

Host entities are defined as the ecclesiastical legal entities under public law supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, as specified in paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision, namely:

(a) The legal entities under public law referred to in article 11 of Law 590/1977 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 146), entitled "On the Charter of the Church of Greece",

(b) The legal entities under public law referred to in article 17 (Administrative Division of the Church of Crete) of Law 4149/1961 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 41), entitled "On the Statutory Act of the Orthodox Church of Crete and other provisions",

(c) The legal entities under public law referred to in articles 319 (Number and Names of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese) and 320 (Patriarchal Exarchate of Patmos) of Law 4957/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 141).

Application deadline

The applications for transfer must be submitted within an exclusive deadline of sixty (60) days from the effective date (March 30, 2026) of the provision of paragraph 16 of article 6 of Law 2740/1999 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 186), namely up to and including May 29, 2026.

It is noted that:

- The right to submit an application may be exercised only once, exclusively within the period from March 30, 2026, up to and including May 29, 2026.
- Applications are submitted solely at the initiative of the interested teachers, and not in response to an invitation or call for applications issued by the host entity (i.e. the ecclesiastical legal entity under public law in which the interested parties currently serve, as mentioned before).

Example of application: A teacher serving on secondment who meets the requirement of five (5) consecutive years of secondment to the same Holy Metropolis upon the law's entry into force is entitled to submit a transfer application once, exclusively within the sixty (60)-day period beginning on March 30, 2026. If the teacher concerned does not submit an application within the above deadline, the respective right to transfer shall be forfeited.

Selection Criteria

All submitted supporting documents, as well as the relevance of the academic degrees, as defined above, are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by:

a. The Primary Staff Council of Ecclesiastical Employees of the Church of Greece, in respect of ecclesiastical employees serving at the Holy Archdiocese of Athens and the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Greece,

b. The relevant Metropolitan Council, which also acts as a staff council for the ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Crete,

c. The relevant Metropolitan Councils, which act as staff councils for the ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, as provided for in the Presidential Decrees issued pursuant to the authorization of paragraph 4 of article 337 of Law 4957/2022, concerning the operating regulations of metropolitan and ecclesiastical councils.

Procedure and Deadline for Completion

Transfers shall:

- Be completed within three (3) months from the deadline for submitting applications, and
- Receive a Publication Reference Number from the National Printing House, within the final deadline being August 31, 2026.

Required Supporting Documents

Interested parties are required to submit the following:

a. An application for transfer –sworn statement, which must also be sent simultaneously to the relevant Education Directorate to which they are administratively assigned. The application-sworn statement must, inter alia, state:

i. That they possess the qualifications required under Presidential Decree 85/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 232) and that they meet the requirements of paragraph 16 of article 6 of Law 2740/1999 and of this circular,

ii. The branch and specialty to which they wish to be transferred based on their formal qualifications, provided that the branch exists within the host entity,

iii. That they commit to serving in the service/entity to which they are transferred for at least five (5) years following their transfer,

iv. That they consent to their reclassification in rank, in accordance with the provisions of article 82 of Law 3528/2007 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 26), as well as to their reclassification in terms of salary in the event of transfer to a lower category.

b. A recent certificate of monthly earnings.

c. A brief curriculum vitae, not exceeding five hundred (500) words.

d. Clear photocopies of computer proficiency certificates, as exclusively specified in article 9 of Presidential Decree 85/2022 and accepted by the Supreme Council for Civil Service Staff Selection, which constitute a mandatory additional qualification for appointment and transfer for employees in the University Education and Technological Education categories.

Applications submitted prior to the publication of this document shall be accepted, provided that the required supporting documents (as specified in paragraph 2 of article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision) are submitted by May 29, 2026.

Computer Skills

Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 1 of article 9, entitled "Computer Skills and Proof Thereof", of Presidential Decree 85/2022 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 232), the following is stipulated: "Knowledge of information technology or computer skills in the areas of (a) word processing, (b) spreadsheets, and (c) internet services is mandatorily defined as an additional qualification for appointment or recruitment for all branches and specialties classified under the University Education and Technological Education categories, as well as for those classified under the Secondary Education category for which this qualification is expressly required in Table 3 of Annex A of this document. For other branches and specialties classified under the Secondary Education category, computer literacy or computer operation skills may be specified as an additional qualification for appointment in the job posting, upon request by the recruiting entity and the approval of the Supreme Council for Civil Service Staff Selection." […] (See also paragraph 2 of article 9 of Presidential Decree 85/2022 regarding the methods of demonstrating computer skills.)

Consequently:

- Computer literacy is a mandatory additional qualification for branches classified under the University Education and Technological Education categories.
- If the relevant certificates have not been submitted to the competent Directorate of Education, they must be attached to the application submitted.

In light of the above, it is clarified that:

- Level A and Level B ICT certificates are not accepted as proof of computer skills under the applicable legal framework.

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Consent of Staff Councils Required on a case-by-case basis

For the transfers of seconded teachers to ecclesiastical legal entities under public law, the following is required, on a case-by-case basis:

a. an opinion from: (aa) The Primary Staff Council of Ecclesiastical Employees of the Church of Greece, (ab) The relevant Metropolitan Council, which also acts as a staff council for the ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Archdiocese of Crete and the Holy Metropolises of the Church of Crete, (ac) The respective Metropolitan Councils, which act as staff councils for ecclesiastical employees of the Holy Metropolises of the Dodecanese, as provided for in the Presidential Decree concerning the operating regulations of the metropolitan and ecclesiastical councils, issued pursuant to the authorization of paragraph 4 of article 337 of Law 4957/2022.

b. The consent of the competent Metropolitan.

Submission of the File by the relevant Metropolitan to the Aforementioned Councils

1. After the deadline for submitting applications has expired, the competent Metropolitan shall submit the following to the aforementioned competent staff councils:

(a) The applicant's transfer application-sworn statement, along with its accompanying supporting documents,

(b) A detailed Certificate of Service Record for each applicant, certifying, inter alia, that no disciplinary or criminal proceedings are pending against them, that no disciplinary penalty has been imposed on them, and that there is no general or specific impediment to their transfer. This certificate is obtained ex officio by the ecclesiastical legal entities under public law.

(c) A certificate of authenticity of academic degrees issued by the relevant Directorate of Education, which is obtained ex officio by the ecclesiastical legal entities under public law.

(d) A certificate confirming the existence and reservation of a vacant permanent position, issued by the Directorate for Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, which is obtained ex officio by the ecclesiastical legal entities under public law.

2. Following the submission of the aforementioned applications, supporting documents and other relevant documentation by the competent Metropolitan, the aforementioned competent staff councils, shall issue, without delay, the opinion referred to in point (a) of paragraph 6 of Article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision, and forward it to the relevant Holy Metropolis.

Submission Procedure

Applications for transfer, together with the required supporting documents:

- Must be addressed to the host entities listed above, namely the ecclesiastical legal entities under public law supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs.
- Must be submitted within the aforementioned deadline, either in hard copy to the Central Registry Office of the host entities or sent to the host entities by post.
- Applications submitted before the publication of the Joint Ministerial Decision and up to the present date shall be accepted, provided that the required supporting documents are submitted additionally by the application deadline of May 29, 2026.
- Applications must be forwarded to the relevant Directorate of Education where the teachers originally belong.
- The timely submission of the application shall be verified by the date on which it is registered or by the postmark date on registered mail.

Teachers who have already submitted an application must notify the relevant Directorate of Education where they belong.

Forwarding of the File by the competent Metropolitan to the Directorate for Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports

The competent Metropolitan shall forward the complete transfer file to the Directorate for Religious Administration of the Ministry of Education, Religious Affairs and Sports, so that a transfer decision may be issued.

Other Provisions

(a) Transferred employees shall retain all pension and insurance rights associated with the positions they held at their entities of origin.

(b) The salary status of transferred teachers shall be governed by the specific salary regulations applicable at the host entity, taking into account both their length of service at that entity and any length of service lawfully recognized by their entity of origin.

(c) Transferred employees shall continue to receive the personal difference provided for in article 27 of Law 4354/2015 (GG, Vol. A', Iss. 176).

(d) In addition to the specific provisions laid down in article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision, the general terms and conditions of the other articles of the Joint Ministerial Decision shall apply supplementarily, provided they do not conflict with the specific provisions of article 9.

Final Remarks

- This circular concerns exclusively the transfer of teachers to ecclesiastical legal entities under public law supervised by the General Secretariat for Religious Affairs, as specified in paragraph 1 of article 9 of the Joint Ministerial Decision and referred to herein as "host entities".
- The transfer process takes precedence over the secondment process.

Our Service remains at your disposal for any further clarifications.

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