

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE December 2, 2013

SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion and consideration to close rulemaking record and adopt proposed changes to rule R7-2-611 regarding Special Education Teaching Certificates.

SUBMITTED BY: Angela Denning, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Exceptional Student Services and CCLC

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: November 14, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At its October 2, 2013 meeting the Certification Advisory Committee recommended that the board consider the following changes to R7-2-611.(C).(D).(E).(F).(G).(H).(M).(N).

- R7-2-611.(C) Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate
- R7-2-611.(D) Standard Cross Categorical Special Education Certificate
Rename the Cross Categorical Special Education certificate to the Mild-Moderate Special Education certificate as well as increase the rigor of coursework required to align with current best practices as well as the Council for Exceptional Children standards. The increase in coursework rigor has been added to better prepare teachers to work with the targeted special education population. The proposed rule change would go into effect January 1, 2016.
Rename the mental retardation disability category to intellectual disabilities to align with Rosa's Law under IDEA, a federal Special Education law.
- R7-2-611.(E) Provisional Specialized Special Education Certificates
- R7-2-611. (F) Standard Specialized Special Education Certificates
No new applications for the Specialized Special Education certificates will be accepted after December 31, 2015. Specialized Special Education certificates are offered in the following disability areas: Mental Retardation, Learning Disabilities, Emotional Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairments and Other Health impairments. This proposal coincides with the proposal for the Mild-Moderate Special Education Certificate which would allow a Mild-Moderate certificate holder to serve students with the disabilities that are currently covered under the Specialized Special Education certificate. The adoption of the Mild-Moderate Special Education certificate eliminates the need for the Specialized Special education certificates. Individuals who hold one or more Specialized Special Education Certificates(s) will be able to maintain these certificates by fulfilling the current renewal requirements.
Rename the mental retardation disability category to intellectual disabilities to align with Rosa's Law under IDEA, a federal special education law.
- R7-2-611.(G) Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Certificate
- R7-2-611.(H) Standard Severely and Profoundly Disabled Certificate
To increase the rigor of coursework to align with current best practices as well as the Council for Exceptional Children standards. The increase in coursework rigor has been added to better prepare teachers to work with the targeted special education population.
The proposed rule would go into effect January 1, 2016.

- R7-2-611.(M) Provisional Early Childhood Special Education Certificate
- R7-2-611.(N) Standard Early Childhood Special Education Certificate

Increase the age range a certificate holder can teach with this certificate as well as increase the rigor of coursework required to align with the Arizona Early Childhood and Council for Exceptional Children standards. The current Early Childhood Special Education certificate only allows an individual to teach students from age 0-5. The proposal to increase the age range to Birth-age 8 or Grade 3 would allow individuals the opportunity to service a wider range of students. School Districts would have greater flexibility in placing teachers due to the increased age range of the certificate. The increased rigor of coursework will better prepare teachers to service the early childhood special education population.

The proposed rule change would go into effect January 1, 2016.

Current Early Childhood Special Education certificate holders will be able to maintain their certificates as long as they fulfill the current renewal requirements.

Proposed Amendments to Rule

The proposed rule change contains modifications to the following sections of the Rule:

- R7-2-611(C) and (D), regarding provisional and standard teaching certificates for mild to moderate disabilities: rename the Cross-categorical certificate to Mild-moderate special education certificate, modify coursework requirements, and re-name the mental retardation disability category to intellectual disabilities.
- R7-2-611(E) and (F), regarding discontinuing the Specialized Special Education certificates: no new applications for the Specialized Special Education certificate will be accepted after December 31, 2015 and re-name the mental retardation disability category to intellectual disabilities.
- R7-2-611(G) and (H), regarding the Severely and Profoundly Disabled certificates: increase the rigor of coursework requirements.
- R7-2-611(M) and (N), regarding the Early Childhood Special Education certificates: change the Early Childhood Special Education certificate from birth through 5 years to birth-age 8 or grade 3 for applications received on or after January 1, 2016 and increase the rigor of coursework requirements.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED

The Board close rulemaking record and adopt proposed rule R7-2-611 regarding Special Education Teaching Certificates.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []

R7-2-611. Special Education Teaching Certificates

C. Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate-grades K through 12 (applications received through December 31, 2015) and Provisional Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate grades K through 12 (applications received on and after January 1, 2016)

1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
2. The holder is qualified to teach students with mild to moderate ~~mental retardation, autism, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury,~~ emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments, and/or other health impairments.
3. The requirements are:
 - a. A bachelor's degree;
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in ~~mental retardation, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and other health impairments~~ the instruction and behavior management of students with mild-moderate disabilities; or
 - ii. A valid mild-moderate special education certificate from another state; or
 - iii. Semester hours of education courses as follows:
 - A. For applications received through December 31, 2015: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses and eight semester hours of practicum with students representing at least three of the five disability areas. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students; teaching methodologies and strategies for students with disabilities; foundations course in mild to moderate mental retardation, learning disability, emotional disabilities, and physical/health impairment; and diagnosis and assessment of mild disabilities; or
 - B. For applications received on and after January 1, 2016: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including 37 semester hours of special education courses with shall include: (a) Foundations of special education; (b) Legal aspects; (c) Effective collaboration and communication practices; (d) Research and evidence based instruction in math; (e) Research and evidence based instruction in English language arts; (f) Classroom management and behavior analysis; (g) Assessment and eligibility, (h) Language development and disorders, (i) Electives; and a minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with mild-moderate disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience in mild-moderate special education in grades K through 12 may substitute for the eight semester hours of practicum.
 - iii. ~~A valid mild-moderate special education certificate from another state.~~
- c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
- d. A passing score on the ~~cross-categorical~~ special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
- e. A valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

D. Standard Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate-grades K through 12 (applications received through December 31, 2015) and Standard Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate grades K through 12 (applications received on and after January 1, 2016)

1. The certificate is valid for six years.
2. The holder is qualified to teach students with mild-moderate ~~mental retardation~~, autism, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments, and/or other health impairments.
3. The requirements are:
 - a. A provisional cross-categorical special education certificate or mild-moderate disabilities special education certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of full time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.