



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Certification Updates
July, 2010

Renewal Changes:

All six-year certificates will now be renewed for six years from the date of issuance. Six-year certificates will **no longer expire** on an applicant's birth date, **effective May 24, 2010**.

H.B. 2725:

At the end of the legislative session, House Bill 2725 was approved. One of the omnibus items that impacts Certification is found in 15-533 Reciprocity: Proficiency Assessments. **Effective July 29, 2010**, an applicant who has three years of full-time teaching experience in the same area of certification can waive the Professional Knowledge exam. This means:

- an applicant applying for an Elementary certificate would be able to waive the Elementary Professional Knowledge exam if he/she submits a letter verifying three years of full-time teaching experience in the elementary grades,
- an applicant applying for a Secondary certificate would be able to waive the Secondary Professional Knowledge exam if she/he submits a letter verifying three years of full-time teaching experience in grades 7-12.
- Special education teachers would need to submit a letter verifying three years of full-time teaching experience in the disability area for which they are obtaining the certificate to waive the Elementary Professional Knowledge exam.

This same statute also applies to CTE, Arts Education and Early Childhood certificates. Three years of full-time teaching experience in Early Childhood can also waive the Early Childhood Professional Knowledge exam under option B for the Early Childhood Endorsement.

An applicant can waive the Subject Knowledge exam if they have a Master's degree in that subject area from an accredited institution of higher education according to an official transcript issued from the institution. Applicants who have a Master's degree in Elementary Education are not eligible to waive the Elementary Subject Knowledge exam because the Elementary Subject Knowledge exam covers the content areas of an Elementary classroom whereas a Master's degree covers the pedagogy of teaching the content areas. A Master's degree in the subject area can now be used to waive the twenty-four semester hour requirement or the subject knowledge test for the following endorsements: Art Endorsement, Music Endorsement and Early Childhood endorsement under options B and C.

New Math Endorsement:

Changes to the Math endorsement will go into effect **July 1, 2011**. The new requirements for this endorsement are as follows:

Mathematics Endorsement -- grades K-8.

1. The mathematics endorsement is optional for all K-8 teachers, but recommended for an individual in the position of mathematics specialist, consultant, interventionist, or coach. Nothing in this rule prevents school districts from requiring certified staff to obtain a mathematics endorsement as a condition of employment. The mathematics endorsement does not waive the requirements set forth in R7-2-607.J
2. The requirements are:
 - a. An Arizona elementary or special education certificate;
 - b. Three years of full-time teaching experience in grades K-8 and
 - c. Eighteen semester hours to include:
 - i. Three semester hours of data analysis, probability, and discrete mathematics;
 - ii. Three semester hours of geometry and measurement;
 - iii. Six semester hours of patterns, algebra, and functions; and
 - iv. Six semester hours of number and operations.
 - d. Six semester hours to include:
 - i. Three semester hours of mathematics classroom assessment;
 - ii. Three semester hours of research-based practices, pedagogy, and instructional leadership in mathematics
 - e. A passing score on the middle school mathematics knowledge portions of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment may be substituted for the 18 semester hours described in R7-2-613(E)(2)(c)
 - f. Completion of a comparable valid mathematics specialist certificate or endorsement from another state may be substituted for the requirements described in R7-2-613(E)(2)(c)(d)

Native American Language Proficiency Exam:

A person holding an Elementary or Secondary certificate now has the opportunity to add a Native American language as an approved area to their certificate. A letter from the tribe verifying proficiency in the language, along with an application and check or money order, are the items that need to be submitted to have the language added as an approved area. State board rule requires tribes to designate one person to verify proficiency. Once a tribe has selected a person to be the language proficiency designee, please send this information, along with contact information for this person, to Kasey Ohrns in the Teacher Certification Unit. Kasey's contact information is Kasey.ohrns@azed.gov or 602-542-4000.