



Requirements for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Education Certificate, Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Early Childhood Education, Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8 Certificate

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Education, Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8 are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed [Application for Certification](#) and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).
2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints \(IVP\)](#) fingerprint clearance card.
3. **Bachelor's degree:** A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
 - *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.
4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

Option A. **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Research-based systematic phonics, including early language and literacy development; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Foundations of early childhood education; Teaching students with exceptionalities; Child guidance and classroom management, including characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition; Child, family, cultural and community relationships; Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts; Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children; Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations; Practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children birth through preschool; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; and twelve week capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 children in kindergarten through grade three, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern or student teaching intern certificate.

- *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

Option B. **Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training.** Both of the following:

B-1. Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience serving children birth through grade three.

- *Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience.

-AND-

B-2. Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:

- a. Research-based systematic phonics, including early language and literacy development;
- b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
- c. Foundations of early childhood education;



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- d. Teaching students with exceptionalities;
- e. Child guidance and classroom management, including characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;
- f. Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition;
- g. Child, family, cultural and community relationships;
- h. Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;
- i. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children;
- j. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations;
- k. Practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children birth through preschool;
- l. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
- o *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Option C. **Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable Early Childhood Education teaching certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5 and #6.

- o *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

5. Professional Knowledge Exam Requirement. One of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):

Option A. **Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA):** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood exam.

- o *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the official AEPA score report.

Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood examination from another state or agency.

- o *Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.

Option C. **NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).

- o *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

Option D. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, serving students in Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.

- o *Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required teaching experience.

6. Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement. One of the following:

Options A and B apply to subject areas in which an Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment has been adopted.

Option A. **Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA):** A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education exam.

- o *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.

Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education exam from another state or agency.



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- *Required Documentation:* An original, official score report, or verification letter from the agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the substantially similar exam.
- Option D. **NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
 - *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.
- Option E. **Degree in the Subject:** A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.
 - *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.
- Option F. **Teaching Experience:** Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in a **self-contained, Preschool-Grade 3** classroom. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.
 - *Required Documentation:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying the required teaching experience.
- Option G. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to Early Childhood Education for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years, at one or more regionally or nationally accredited postsecondary institutions.
 - *Required Documentation:* A letter(s) from the college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director, verifying postsecondary teaching experience for the specific durations.
- Option H. **Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in Early Childhood Education through five years of relevant work experience.
 - *Required Documentation.* One of the following:
 - A letter from a public school Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying that they have five years of work experience which demonstrates expertise in the subject area-**OR-**
 - A resume which details work experience of at least five years which demonstrates expertise in the subject area. *Note:* The Department will review your resume to determine if you have demonstrated expertise through five years of relevant work experience.

Requirements # 7, #8, #9, #10, and #11 are **allowable deficiencies** which must be completed in the specified timeframe.

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

7. **Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
8. **U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
9. **Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics including early language and literacy development
10. **Dyslexia:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.



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11. Ethics: A college course or Board approved or accredited training in in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution and/or U.S. Constitution, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements, except that if you are certified to teach an academic course on history, government, social studies, citizenship, law, or civics, you have **one year** to fulfill the Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements. **

Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. **

****NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency requirements within the allowable time frame, your Standard teaching certificate will be **temporarily suspended** and will not be valid for employment until the deficiency is corrected. A temporary suspension for failure to meet these requirements is not considered a disciplinary action and a person shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate. **