



Requirements for the Standard Professional Elementary – Grades K-8

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Elementary, K-8

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

Requirements for the Standard Professional Elementary, K-8 Certificate 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 Elementary 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: At least three semester hours or 45 clock hours in research-based systematic phonics, including 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; Developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts; Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations; The learning environment, including classroom management; Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress; Teaching students with exceptionalities; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; and Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in grades kindergarten through eight, 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 in kindergarten through grade eight.

- *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. At least three (3) semester hours or 45 clock hour in research-based systematic phonics, including 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. Developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;
- d. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations;
- e. The learning environment, including classroom management;



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- f. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress;
- g. Teaching students with exceptionalities;
- h. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
- *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Option C. Out-of-State Certification. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Elementary 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.

- *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. NES/AEPA: A passing score on the APEA/NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary exam.

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

Option B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Elementary exam from another state or agency.

- *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).

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

Option D. Teaching Experience: Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, **in grades K-8** *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.

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

Option A. AEPA/NES: A passing score on the AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge: Elementary Education Subtests I and II exam.

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

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

- a. *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 C. NBPTS: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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

Option D. Degree in the Subject: A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree in **Elementary Education** from an accredited institution.

- *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.



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Option E. Teaching Experience: Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in a **Self-Contained, Elementary K-8** 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 F. Post-Secondary Teaching: Experience teaching courses relevant to **Elementary 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 G. Work Experience: Demonstration of expertise in **Elementary 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 you 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:** At least three (3) semester hours or 45 clock hours of training in research-based systematic phonics, including 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.
- 11. Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training 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. **



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****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. ******