



Requirements for the Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education

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

Requirements for the Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education 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 PreK-12 Physical 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: Elementary, secondary and adaptive physical education methods; Foundational coursework in the areas of Growth and Motor Development, Movement Activities; Lifelong Physical Fitness; Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations; The learning environment, including classroom management; Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct and; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in grades Pre-K-12 physical education, serving students in elementary and secondary physical education, 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 PreK-12 Physical Education.
 - *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. Elementary physical education methods
 - b. Secondary physical education methods
 - c. Adaptive physical education methods
 - d. Foundational coursework in the areas of growth and motor Development, movement activities, and lifelong physical fitness
 - e. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations
 - f. The learning environment, including classroom management
 - g. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress
 - h. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct.



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- Option C. **Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable PreK-12 Physical Education 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. **Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA/NES):** A passing score on the AEPA or NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary or Assessment of Professional Knowledge- Secondary exam.
- *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the official NES or AEPA passing score report.
- Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Elementary or Professional Knowledge-Secondary examination 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 PreK-12. *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. **Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA/NES):** A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge: Physical Education exam.
- *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the passing score report.
- Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge: Physical Education examination from another state or agency.
- *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. **Coursework:** Completion of 24 semester hours of coursework from an accredited institution in a subject area in which an AEPA/NES exam has not been adopted.
- *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the coursework.
- 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 Physical Education.
- *Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.



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Option F. **Teaching Experience:** Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in PreK-12 Physical Education. *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 Physical 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 Physical 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, and #9 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. 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. **

Ethic Requirement: 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. **