

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH
GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the Early Childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Moderate/Severe Disabilities, Cross-Categorical, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic/Other Health Impairment or Severely and Profoundly Disabled Special Education teaching certificate is not required to hold the Early Childhood Special Education certificate.

➤ **Provisional Early Childhood Endorsement**

The Provisional Early Childhood Education endorsement is valid for three years and shall not be renewed or extended.

Requirements for the Provisional Early Childhood Education endorsement are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#).
2. Appropriate Fee (See Application for Certification)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).
4. A valid Arizona **Elementary** or **Special Education** teaching certificate.
5. Subject Knowledge Competency. **One of the following:**
 - A. **Exam:** A passing score on the NES/AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
 - B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the original score report at time of application.
 - C. **NBCT:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
 - D. **Degree in Early Childhood:** A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education. Official transcript(s) required.
 - E. **Teaching Experience:** Three (3) years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, **in a self-contained early childhood classroom, grades PreK through 3**. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the district superintendent or personnel director to verify teaching experience. *Note: Teaching experience in a foreign country will **not** be accepted.*
 - F. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to **early childhood** 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. Submit a verification letter from a department chair, dean, or personnel director, verifying employment for the specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary institutions.
 - G. **Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in **early childhood** through five years of relevant work experience. “Work experience” means work experience identified in the submission of a resume verified by a hiring public school superintendent or personnel director or the Department of Education which demonstrates knowledge or skills relevant to the subject area.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH
GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

➤ **Full Early Childhood Endorsement**

The full Early Childhood endorsement shall be automatically renewed with the certificate on which it is posted.

Requirements for the full Early Childhood endorsement are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See Application for Certification)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic).
4. A valid Arizona **Elementary** or **Special Education** teaching certificate.
5. Option A, B, C **or** D:

Option A:

- A-1. Twenty-one semester hours of early childhood education courses to include all of the following areas of study: (1) Foundations of early childhood education; (2) Child guidance and classroom management; (3) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children; (4) Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition; (5) Child, family, cultural and community relationships; (6) Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts; (7) Early language and literacy development; (8) Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children.
- A-2 A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:
- a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by a District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** –
 - b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by a District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.

Option B:

- B-1. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam. **One** of the following:
- a. **AEPA Exam:** A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (#93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA);
 - b. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report.
 - c. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Birth-Grade 3. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience. *Note: Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.*
 - d. **NBCT:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
- B-2. A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum including:
- a. 4 semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by the District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based

** Requirements may be subject to change and are fully referenced in the Arizona revised statutes and administrative code. **

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR THROUGH
GRADE 3 ENDORSEMENT**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT
program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military
authorities to verify teaching experience. - **AND** -

- b. 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying teaching experience.

Option C:

- C-1. Three (3) years of full-time teaching early childhood education, birth through grade 3. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) signed by a District Superintendent or Personnel Director to verify experience.

Option D:

- D-1. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Early Childhood certificate or endorsement from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Submit a photocopy of your comparable out-of-state certificate or endorsement.

Applicants who qualify under Option D are not required to meet requirement #6.

6. Subject Knowledge Exam. **One of the following:**
- A. **Exam:** A passing score on the NES/AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
 - B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit the original score report at time of application.
 - C. **NBCT:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
 - D. **Degree in Early Childhood:** A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education. Official transcript(s) required.
 - E. **Teaching Experience:** Three (3) years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, **in a self-contained early childhood classroom, grades PreK through 3.** Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the district superintendent or personnel director to verify teaching experience. *Note: Teaching experience in a foreign country will **not** be accepted.*
 - F. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to **early childhood** 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. Submit a verification letter from a department chair, dean, or personnel director, verifying employment for the specific durations from one or more qualifying postsecondary institutions.
 - G. **Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in **early childhood** through five years of relevant work experience. “Work experience” means work experience identified in the submission of a resume verified by a hiring public school superintendent or personnel director or the Department of Education which demonstrates knowledge or skills relevant to the subject area.