



# Requirements for the Early Childhood Education, Birth-Age 8 or Grade 3 Endorsement

## Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

### Endorsement Information:

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The Early Childhood endorsement authorizes the holder to teach all subjects to children in birth-grade 3 or age 8. When added to an Arizona Mild/Moderate Disabilities, Moderate/Severe Disabilities, Cross-Categorical Special Education, Emotional Disability, Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, Orthopedic/Other Health Impairment, the endorsement also authorizes the holder for an early childhood special education, birth-grade 3 classroom.

### Administrative Requirement Checklist:

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The following items are required by the Certification Unit to complete a Substantive review. The Administrative requirements must be submitted as described; if not, the processing of your application could be delayed. Application fees are non-refundable.

- Application & Fee:** Complete the [Application for Certification](#) and submit it with the appropriate fee.
- IVP Fingerprint Card:** Submit a photocopy of your valid [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) Identity Verified Prints (IVP) fingerprint card, (not the paper copy), with your application.
- Prerequisite Certificate:** You must hold a valid Arizona Elementary or Special Education Certificate to apply for this endorsement.
- Subject Knowledge Exam:** Submit a copy of your passing score report for the [AEPA](#) Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education exam or appropriate documentation to qualify for a waiver of the exam requirement (see Substantive Requirements).

**-One of the following-**

- Official Transcripts:** Request that your university/college submit official transcripts documenting the required early childhood coursework directly to [certification@azed.gov](mailto:certification@azed.gov), or by mail to Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit, P.O. Box 6490, Phoenix, AZ 85005.
  - *Note:* Transcripts submitted by the applicant via the online portal or by email are not considered official. If you completed coursework or degree(s) from an institution outside the United States a course-by-course evaluation from a Department-approved agency is required. Please see the [Foreign Credential Evaluation Agencies Information](#) for instructions.

**-OR-**

- Professional Knowledge Exam:** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Early Childhood exam or appropriate documentation to qualify for a waiver of the exam requirement; **-AND-**
- Practicums/Experience:** Appropriate documentation to show proof of the required Birth-PreK and K-3 practicums or experience (see Substantive Requirements).

**-OR-**

- Teaching Experience:** Verification of three (3) years of full-time teaching experience in an early childhood, birth-Age 8 or Grade 3 classroom. Please forward the [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form to your district/charter school HR office for completion and submission to [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov).

**-OR-**

- Out-of-State Certificate/License:** A photocopy of your valid, comparable Early Childhood teaching certificate endorsement from another state. *Note: Applicants who qualify for the Early Childhood endorsement with a valid, comparable out-of-state certificate are exempt from the Subject Knowledge Exam requirement.*



# Requirements for the Early Childhood Education, Birth-Age 8 or Grade 3 Endorsement

## Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

### Substantive Requirements - Provisional Early Childhood Endorsement

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The provisional endorsement is valid for 3 years and is not renewable.

1. **Prerequisite Certificate:** A valid Arizona Elementary, or Special Education teaching certificate
2. **Subject Knowledge Exam. One** of the following:
  - **Arizona Educator Exam:** A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
  - **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education examination from another state or agency. Submit the official score report and have the state educator licensure agency complete and submit [Verification of Out of State Exams form](#). If you took a Praxis exam, request that your scores be reported by ETS to the Arizona Department of Education (8517), in lieu of the Verification of Out-of-State Exam form.
  - **NBPTS:** A valid, comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
  - **Degree:** A Bachelor's Masters or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.
  - **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. Please forward the [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form to your district/charter school HR office for completion and submission to [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov). *Note: Teaching experience in a foreign country or substitute teaching will **not** be accepted.*
  - **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. 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.
  - **Work Experience:** Work experience of five or more years in the applicable subject area of certification. Submit one of the following:
    - **Option 1:** District/Charter School Letter. A letter, on official letterhead, from a superintendent or personnel director verifying that the applicant demonstrates knowledge or skill in the subject area that is comparable to holding a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree in that Early Childhood Education area through five years of work experience, as identified in a resume;
    - **Option 2:** District/Charter/Private School Letter. A letter, on official letterhead, from a public or private school superintendent or personnel director in this state or in another state, verifying that the applicant has five years of experience teaching the most advanced Arizona academic standards, or comparable out-of-state standards, in Early Childhood Education;
    - **Option 3:** Employer Letter. If an applicant is unable to obtain a letter from a superintendent or personnel director described above, the applicant may submit a letter (on official company letterhead) from a current or former supervisor detailing their work experience. The Department will review the letter to determine if the applicant has five years of work experience that demonstrates knowledge and skills in Early Childhood Education that is comparable to holding a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree in Early Childhood Education.



# Requirements for the Early Childhood Education, Birth-Age 8 or Grade 3 Endorsement

## Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

### Substantive Requirements - Full Early Childhood Endorsement

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The full endorsement shall be automatically renewed with the certificate on which it is posted. All requirements (1, 2, **and** 3) must be met.

1. **Prerequisite Certificate:** A valid Arizona Elementary, or Special Education teaching certificate.
2. **Subject Knowledge Exam. One** of the following:
  - **Arizona Educator Exam:** A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) exam.
  - **Out-of-State Certificate:** A copy of your valid, comparable Early Childhood, Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8 certificate or endorsement from another state that is in good standing in that other state.
  - **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education examination from another state or agency. Submit a copy of the official score report and have the state educator licensure agency complete and submit [Verification of Out of State Exams form](#). If you took a Praxis exam, request that your scores be reported by ETS to the Arizona Department of Education (8517), in lieu of the Verification of Out-of-State Exam form.
  - **NBPTS:** A valid, comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.
  - **Degree:** A Bachelor's Masters or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Education.
  - **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. Please forward the [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form to your district/charter school HR office for completion and submission to [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov). *Note: Teaching experience in a foreign country or substitute teaching will **not** be accepted.*
  - **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. 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.
  - **Work Experience:** Work experience of five or more years in the applicable subject area of certification. Submit one of the following:
    - **Option 1:** District/Charter School Letter. A letter, on official letterhead, from a superintendent or personnel director verifying that the applicant demonstrates knowledge or skill in the subject area that is comparable to holding a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree in that Early Childhood Education area through five years of work experience, as identified in a resume;
    - **Option 2:** District/Charter/Private School Letter. A letter, on official letterhead, from a public or private school superintendent or personnel director in this state or in another state, verifying that the applicant has five years of experience teaching the most advanced Arizona academic standards, or comparable out-of-state standards, in Early Childhood Education;
    - **Option 3:** Employer Letter. If an applicant is unable to obtain a letter from a superintendent or personnel director described above, the applicant may submit a letter (on official company letterhead) from a current or former supervisor detailing their work experience. The Department will review the letter to determine if the applicant has five years of work experience that demonstrates knowledge and skills in Early Childhood Education that is comparable to holding a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree in Early Childhood Education.



# Requirements for the Early Childhood Education, Birth-Age 8 or Grade 3 Endorsement Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

## 3. Option A, B, C, or D.

### Option A: Coursework and Practicums/Experience

- **Coursework:** Completion of 21 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.

**-AND-**

- **Practicums/Experience:** A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum to include:
  - Four (4) semester hours of supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of verified full-time verified teaching experience with children from birth through preschool may substitute for this requirement.
  - Four (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 requirement.

### Option B: Professional Knowledge Exam and Practicums/Experience

- **Professional Knowledge Exam. One** of the following:
  - **AEPA Exam:** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (#93) exam.
  - **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency.
  - **NBPTS:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.

**-AND-**

- **Practicums/Experience.** Eight semester hours of practicum, to include:
  - Four (4) semester hours of a supervised field experience, practicum, internship, or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of verified, full-time teaching experience with children from birth through preschool may substitute for this requirement. - AND –
  - Four (4) semester hours of student teaching in kindergarten through grade 3. One year of verified, full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3.

### Option C: Teaching Experience

- Verification of three (3) years of full-time teaching experience in a Birth-Grade 3 classroom. Please forward the [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form to your district/charter school HR office for completion and submission to [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov).

### Option D: Out-of-State Certificate/License

- 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

Pursuant to section 41-1093.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, an agency shall limit all occupational regulations to regulations that are demonstrated to be necessary to specifically fulfill a public health, safety, or welfare concern. Pursuant to sections 41-1093.02 and 41-1093.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, you have the right to petition this agency to repeal or modify the occupational regulation or bring an action in a court of general jurisdiction to challenge the occupational regulation and to ensure compliance with section 41-1093.01, Arizona Revised Statutes