



State of Arizona  
Department of Education

**Arizona Department of Education**

**Certification Update**

**August, 2017**

**New Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate – Effective August 9, 2017**

Legislation under Senate Bill 1042 creates a new Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching certificate for grades 6-12. Effective August 9, 2017 applicants may qualify for the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching Certificate if they have a valid Arizona Department of Public Safety IVP fingerprint clearance card and proof of expertise in a subject area through **one** of the following:

- Verification of teaching experience in the applicable subject area of certification 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; **or**
- Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in the applicable subject area of certification from an accredited institution; **or**
- Verification of at least five years of work experience that is relevant to the applicable subject area of certification. "Work experience" means work experience identified in the submission of a resume verified by a hiring superintendent or personnel director at the public school or the Department of Education which demonstrates knowledge or skills relevant to a subject area.

A passing score on the NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge Secondary exam is required within two years from date of issuance of a Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching certificate, except that applicants who qualify with three years of postsecondary teaching experience are exempt from this requirement. If an applicant fails to meet the Professional Knowledge Secondary exam requirement within two years, the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching certificate will be suspended and will not be valid for employment. Please note that a suspension for failure to meet the Professional Knowledge Secondary exam requirement is **not** considered a disciplinary action and the certificate holder shall be allowed to correct the deficiency within the remaining timeframe of the certificate.

Individuals who meet the requirements for the Subject Matter Expert Standard Teaching certificate are exempt from the Subject Knowledge exam and Arizona and U.S. Constitution requirements.

Please contact the Certification office at 602-542-4367 or email [Certification@azed.gov](mailto:Certification@azed.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.