



Requirements for the Standard Professional Middle Grades Certificate – Grades 5-9

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Middle Grades, 5-9 Certificate

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

Requirements for the Standard Professional Middle Grades Certificate – Grades 5-9 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:** Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**
 - Option A. Teacher Preparation Program:** Official transcripts **or** an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of a teacher preparation program in middle grades 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:
 - a. Early adolescent psychology;
 - 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. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations;
 - d. The learning environment, including classroom management;
 - e. Developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies;
 - f. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress;
 - g. Teaching students with exceptionalities;
 - h. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct;
 - i. A capstone experience in grades five through nine described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-604 and R7-2-609.01.
 - Option B. Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training.** Submit the following:
 - B-1.** Verification of two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in grades 5-9. Please submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the superintendent or personnel director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience; **and**
 - B-2.** Official transcripts from an accredited college or university **or** a verification letter from a Board approved or accredited training provider documenting completion of training or coursework which teaches the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and addresses the following topics:
 - a. Early adolescent psychology;
 - 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. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations;
 - d. The learning environment, including classroom management;
 - e. Developmentally appropriate instructional delivery, facilitation and methodologies;
 - f. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress;
 - g. Teaching students with exceptionalities;
 - h. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct.



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Option C. Out-of-State Certification. The applicant holds a valid, comparable Middle Grades certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Please submit a photocopy of your out-of-state Middle Grades teaching certificate. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5 and #6.

5. Professional Knowledge Exam Requirement. One of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):

- A. **NES/AEPA:** A passing score on the NES or AEPA Assessment for Professional Knowledge: **Elementary** or the NES or AEPA Assessment for Professional Knowledge: **Secondary**.
- 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. Submit original score reports.
- C. **NBCT:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
- D. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in grades K-12. 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.*

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

Options A and B apply to subject areas in which an Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment has been adopted.

- A. **AEPA/NES:** A passing score on at least one AEPA or NES Middle Grades or Secondary Subject Knowledge exam.
- B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Secondary Education examination from another state or agency. Submit the original score report at time of application.

Option C applies to subject areas in which an Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted.

- C. **Coursework:** Completion of 24 semester hours of coursework in a subject area in which an AEPA/NES exam has not been adopted.

Option D, E, F, G, and H may substitute for either the AEPA/NES exam or the 24 semester hours of coursework.

- D. **NBCT:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a photocopy of the certificate.
- E. **Degree in the Subject:** A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in a relevant content area. Submit official transcripts.
- F. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in the appropriate middle grades or secondary subject area. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience. *Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.*
- G. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to the appropriate subject area 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.
- H. **Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in the appropriate subject area through five years of relevant work experience. "Work experience" means work experience identified in the submission of a



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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.

Options I and J may substitute for 24 semester hours of coursework in a foreign or Native American language when an APEA or NES exam has not been adopted in the specified language.

- I. **ACTFL:** A passing score of Advanced Low on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) for the speaking and writing exams may be used in lieu of 24 semester hours of coursework if an NES/AEPA language assessment is not offered.
- J. **Native American Language Proficiency:** Verification of Native American language proficiency may be used in lieu of 24 semester hours of coursework. Submit a letter on official letterhead from a person(s) or entity designated by the appropriate tribe.

Requirements # 7, #8, #9, and #10 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:** Completion of a college course or Board approved or accredited training in professional responsibility and ethical conduct
10. **Dyslexia:** Completion of 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.

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. **

Ethics and Dyslexia Requirements: If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Ethics and/or Dyslexia 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. **