

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Issue:** Presentation, discussion, and possible action to recommend proposed rule R7-2-615.01 Special Education Endorsements.

Action/Discussion Item

Information Item

**Background and Discussion**

A.R.S. § 203(A)(14) authorizes the Board to supervise and control the certification of educators. Board rule R7-2-615 establishes certification endorsements, which are attachments to educator certificates that expand the area the holder is authorized to teach. Some endorsements have a corresponding teaching certificate which provides an equivalent authorization.

Under current Certification rules, certified general education teachers seeking an authorization to teach special education must complete a new teacher preparation program leading to a Standard Professional Special Education certificate. The additional costs and repetitious training involved in completing the additional program presents a barrier to certified general education teachers seeking a credential to teach special education.

To address the shortage of qualified special education teachers, the Department is proposing a Mild/Moderate Disabilities and Moderate/Severe Disabilities endorsement. The proposed endorsements will require three years of full-time teaching and targeted training needed to effectively teach students with disabilities. An individual who qualifies for the endorsement will be limited to teaching special education within the grade range of the prerequisite certificate.

The proposed requirements for the **Mild/Moderate Disabilities** endorsement are:

- A valid Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Moderate/Severe Disabilities certificate.
- Verification of three years of full-time teaching in PreK-Grade 12.
- A passing score on the National Evaluation Series (NES) Special Education exam
- Eighteen (18) semester hours of special education courses which include all the following:
  - Methods for Teaching Reading to Students with Disabilities
  - Methods for Teaching Mathematics to Students with Disabilities
  - Behavior Management for Students with Disabilities
  - Special Education Law
  - Special Education Assessment and Individualized Education Program Planning
  - Language Development and Disorders

The proposed requirements for the **Moderate/Severe Disabilities** endorsement are:

- A valid Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Mild/Moderate Disabilities certificate.

- Verification of three years of full-time teaching in PreK-Grade 12.
- A passing score on the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) Special Education: Severely and Profoundly Disabled exam
- Twenty-one (21) semester hours of special education courses which include the following:
  - Methods for Teaching Reading to Students with Disabilities
  - Methods for Teaching Mathematics to Students with Disabilities
  - Behavior Management for Students with Disabilities
  - Special Education Law
  - Special Education Assessment and Individualized Education Program Planning
  - Methods for Teaching Students with Severe Disabilities
  - Adaptive Communication, including Language Development and Disorders

**Recommendation to the Certification Advisory Committee**

That the Certification Advisory Committee recommend proposed rule R7-2-615.01 regarding Special Education Endorsements to the Board.

**Contact Information**

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## R7-2-615.01 Special Education Endorsements

- A. Except as noted, special education endorsements are subject to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607.
- B. Mild/Moderate Disabilities Endorsement
  - 1. The endorsement authorizes the holder to teach students with mild/moderate disabilities within the same grade range of the certificate it is endorsing.
  - 2. The requirements are:
    - a. A valid Arizona Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Moderate/Severe Disabilities certificate;
    - b. Three years of full-time teaching experience in preschool through grade twelve;
    - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, or qualification for a waiver of this assessment, that is required for the Standard Professional Mild/Moderate Disabilities certificate.
    - d. Eighteen semester hours of special education courses to include all of the following:
      - i. Methods for teaching reading to students with disabilities;
      - ii. Methods for teaching mathematics to students with disabilities;
      - iii. Behavior management for students with disabilities;
      - iv. Special education law;
      - v. Special education assessment and individualized education program planning;
      - vi. Language development and disorders.
- C. Moderate/Severe Disabilities Endorsement
  - 1. The endorsement authorizes the holder to teach students with moderate/severe disabilities within the same grade range as the certificate it is endorsing.
  - 2. The requirements are:
    - a. A valid Arizona Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Mild/Moderate Disabilities certificate;
    - b. Three years of full-time teaching experience in preschool through grade twelve;
    - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, or qualification for a waiver of this assessment, that is required for the Standard Professional Moderate/Severe Disabilities certificate.
    - d. Twenty-one semester hours of special education courses to include all of the following:
      - i. Methods for teaching reading to students with disabilities;
      - ii. Methods for teaching mathematics to students with disabilities;
      - iii. Behavior management for students with disabilities;

- iv. Special education law;
- v. Special education assessment and individualized education program planning;
- vi. Methods for teaching students with severe disabilities;
- vii. Adaptive communication, including language development and disorders.