

Certification Updates March 2020

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CERTIFICATION CHANGES AND UPDATES NEWS AND INFORMATION

New Special Education Endorsements

On February 24, 2020, the Board of Education adopted new special education endorsements for teachers of students with mild/moderate and moderate/severe disabilities. The new endorsements will enable certified, experienced teachers to become qualified to teach special education without completing an additional teacher preparation program.

Certified teachers may apply for either a three-year, non-renewable provisional endorsement or a full endorsement in mild/moderate or moderate/severe disabilities special education.

The requirements for the provisional special education endorsements are:

- A valid Arizona Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Special Education teaching certificate; and
- Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in preschool through grade twelve; and
- Six semester hours of specified special education courses; **and**
- Verification of 15 clock hours of special education practicum, which may be embedded in the six semester hours of courses.

The requirements for the full special education endorsements are:

- A valid Arizona Standard Professional Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Grades, Secondary, or Special Education teaching certificate; and
- Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in preschool through grade twelve; and
- Fifteen (15) semester hours of specified special education courses; **and**
- Verification of 45 clock hours of special education practicum, which may be embedded in the 15 semester hours of courses.

Please [click here](#) to review the requirements for the Mild/Moderate Disabilities and Moderate/Severe Disabilities endorsements for detailed information on these new endorsements.

Experienced Educator Renewal Option Reminder

Under the “experienced educator” option for renewal, an individual who holds an educator certificate which **has expired for at least two years, but not more than ten years**, may qualify for renewal with the following:

- Verification of ten years of experience in the area of certification and in Arizona; and
- A valid Arizona DPS IVP fingerprint clearance card; and
- The educator is in good standing.

Please note that educators may only submit an **online** renewal application if their certificate is within the renewal time-frame, which is six months before to up to one year after expiration. Therefore, individuals who are applying under the experienced educator option must submit a paper renewal application.

Please call the Certification hotline for specific questions, 602-542-4367 or [click here](#) for the renewal application and requirements. Thank you for all you do to help ensure our teachers are ready for the classroom.