



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

December 15, 2008

MEMORANDUM

To: Early Childhood Program Administrators

From: Amy Corriveau, Deputy Associate Superintendent
Early Childhood Education
School Effectiveness Division

Subject: Changes in Early Childhood Certification and Endorsement

In 2004 the AZ State Board of Education approved an Early Childhood Teaching Certificate and Endorsement for state funded preschool and kindergarten teachers which was meant to be fully implemented on July 1, 2009.

In spring of 2008, ADE staff ascertained that our state was only at 46% compliance for preschool teachers and at 49% for kindergarten teacher compliance.

December 8, 2008, The State Board of Education voted to accept two significant changes to the Early Childhood Certification/Endorsement Rule Language that were recommended by the Certification Advisory Committee.

- 1. Implementation date for ECE Certification and Endorsement will be postponed from July 1, 2009 to July 1, 2012 (R7-2-608 & R7-2-615)**
- 2. Additional board rule language now stipulates that a passing score on the early childhood professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment may be substituted for the 21 semester hours of early childhood education coursework required to obtain the ECE Endorsement (R7-2-615).**

The full version of the adopted language can be found at:
<http://www.ade.state.az.us/stateboard/agendaitems/Item5-HI-EarlyChildhoodCertificateandEndorsement.pdf>

It is **strongly** recommended that Administrators implement the following **timeline to ensure compliance by 2012.**

2009	25% of ECE educators in preschool and kindergarten are in compliance with R7-2-608
2010	50% of ECE educators in preschool and kindergarten are in compliance with R7-2-608
2011	75% of ECE educators in preschool and kindergarten are in compliance with R7-2-608
2012	100% of ECE educators in preschool and kindergarten are in compliance with R7-2-608

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Education ~ Early Childhood Education website for coursework availability, State Board Approved ECE Programs and implementation guidance.
<http://www.ade.state.az.us/earlychildhood/>