The requirements for the Standard Professional Elementary Certificate are:

1. Completed Application for Certification.
2. Appropriate fee (See Application for Certification).
4. A Bachelor’s or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C.

**One of the following:**

A. **Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a teacher preparation program in elementary education from an accredited institution or a Board-approved teacher preparation program.

B. **Coursework and Experience:** Forty-five (45) semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including at least 8 semester hours of practicum in grades 1-8. Two years of verified full-time teaching experience in grades Prekindergarten - 8 may be substituted for the 8 semester hours of practicum. Submit a Verification of Teaching Experience form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience. Courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in the professional teaching standards such as learning theory, classroom management, methods and assessment are acceptable.

C. **Out-of-State Certification:** A valid, comparable Elementary Education certificate from another state. Applicants who qualify under Option C are not required to meet requirements #6 and #7.

6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam. **One of the following:**

A. NES/AEPA: A passing score on the NES or AEPA Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary exam.

B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge Elementary 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 photocopy of the certificate.

D. Teaching Experience: Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in grades K-8 or special education 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.

7. Subject Knowledge Elementary Education Exam. **One of the following:**

A. NES/AEPA: A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Elementary Education (Subtest I and II) or the AEPA Subject Knowledge exam (replaced by the NES assessment).

B. Out-of-State Exam: A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Elementary Education examination from another state or agency. Submit the original score report at time of application.

C. NBCT: A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a copy of the certificate.

D. Degree: A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in a relevant content area. Submit official transcripts.
E. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in elementary education, K-8. 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.

F. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to elementary education 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.

G. **Work Experience:** Verification of a minimum of five years of work experience that is relevant to the subject area. “Work experience” means work experience identified in the submission of a 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.

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<tr>
<th>Requirements # 8, # 9, and # 10 are required within one year or three years. **</th>
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<td>8. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. Phonics (three semester hours or forty-five clock hours of training in research-based systematic phonics from an accredited institution or other provider).</td>
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**NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Arizona Constitution, U.S. Constitution, and/or Phonics requirements, 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. If you do not complete the 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.

**Requirements may be subject to change and are fully referenced in the Arizona Revised Statutes and Administrative Code.**