REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
STANDARD PROFESSIONAL EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

An individual who holds the early childhood education teaching certificate or the early childhood endorsement in combination with an Arizona special education teaching certificate is not required to hold the early childhood special education certificate.

STANDARD EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH THROUGH AGE 8 OR GRADE 3 CERTIFICATE

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and renewable.

Requirements for the Standard Early Childhood Education, Birth through Age 8 or through Grade 3 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 early childhood education from an accredited institution or a Board-approved teacher preparation program.
   B. Coursework and Experience: Thirty seven (37) semester hours of early childhood education courses from an accredited institution to include all of the following areas of study and a minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum. Practicum must include a minimum of 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool or one year of full-time verified teaching experience birth through preschool and a minimum of 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3 or one year of full-time verified teaching experience kindergarten through grade 3.
      ▪ Early childhood education courses shall include all of the following areas of study (1) foundations of early childhood education, (2) child guidance and classroom management, (3) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children, (4) child growth and development, including, health, safety and nutrition, (5) child, family, cultural and community relationships, (6) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts, (7) early language and literacy development, (8) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children.
      ▪ One (1) year of verified full-time teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. Submit a Verification of Teaching Experience form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Program Director of a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities to verify teaching experience.
      ▪ One (1) year of verified full-time teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade 3. Submit a Verification of Teaching Experience form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
   C. Out-of-State Certification: A valid, comparable Early Childhood Education certificate from another state. Applicants who qualify under Option C are not required to meet requirements #6 and #7.
6. Professional Knowledge Early Childhood Exam. One of the following:
   A. AEPA: A passing score on the Professional Knowledge Early Childhood (#93) portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA).
B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge Early Childhood examination from another state or agency. Submit original score reports.

C. **NBCT:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist 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, teaching children from birth to Grade 3. 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 Early Childhood Education Exam.**

   **One of the following:**

   A. **AEPA:** A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (#36) portion of the AEPA.

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

   C. **NBCT:** A valid Early Childhood Generalist certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

   D. **Degree:** Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in a relevant content area.

   E. **Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in a self-contained, Preschool through Grade 3 classroom. 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 early childhood 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:** 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.

8. **Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).**

9. **U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).**

   **NOTE:** 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. 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.