Requirements for the Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Professional PreK-12 Physical Education are:

1. **Application:** Submission of a completed Application for Certification and the appropriate fee (see Application for Certification).

2. **AZDPS IVP fingerprint clearance card:** A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (IVP) fingerprint clearance card.

3. **Bachelor’s degree:** A Bachelor’s or more advanced degree from an accredited college or university.
   - Required Documentation: Official transcript(s) posting the degree and date awarded.

4. **One of the following (Option A, B, or C):**

   **Option A.  Teacher Preparation Program:** Completion of a teacher preparation program in PreK-12 Physical Education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training, addressing the topics listed below and any others as required by law: Elementary, secondary and adaptive physical education methods; Foundational coursework in the areas of Growth and Motor Development, Movement Activities; Lifelong Physical Fitness; Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations; The learning environment, including classroom management; Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct and; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in grades Pre-K-12 physical education, serving students in elementary and secondary physical education, which may be completed during the valid period of a teaching intern or student teaching intern certificate.
   - Required Documentation: Official transcripts or an Arizona Institutional Recommendation (IR) documenting completion of the teacher preparation program.

   **Option B.  Teaching Experience and Coursework/Training.** Both of the following:
   - **B-1.** Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in PreK-12 Physical Education.
     - Required Documentation: A Verification of Teaching Experience form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience.
   - **B-2.** Completion of Board approved or accredited coursework or trainings which teach the knowledge and skills described in Arizona Administrative Code R7-2-602 and address the following topics:
     - a. Elementary physical education methods
     - b. Secondary physical education methods
     - c. Adaptive physical education methods
     - d. Foundational coursework in the areas of growth and motor Development, movement activities, and lifelong physical fitness
     - e. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations
     - f. The learning environment, including classroom management
     - g. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress
     - h. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct.
     - Required Documentation: Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

Requirements may be subject to change and are fully referenced in the Arizona Revised Statutes and Administrative Code.
Option C. **Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable PreK-12 Physical Education certificate from another state and is in good standing with that other state. Applicants who qualify under this option are **not** required to meet the exam requirements listed under #5 and #6.
  - Required Documentation: A photocopy of the valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state.

5. **Professional Knowledge Exam Requirement.** One of the following (Option A, B, C, or D):
   - **Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA/NES):** A passing score on the AEPA or NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary or Assessment of Professional Knowledge- Secondary exam.
     - Required Documentation: A photocopy of the official NES or AEPA passing score report.
   - **Option B. Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Elementary or Professional Knowledge-Secondary examination from another state or agency.
     - Required Documentation: An original, official score report, or a verification letter from the state agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the exam.
   - **Option C. NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS).
     - Required Documentation: A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.
   - **Option D. Teaching Experience:** Three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in grades PreK-12. **Note:** Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.
     - Required Documentation: A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director, verifying the required teaching experience.

6. **Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement.** One of the following:
   - **Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA/NES):** A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge: Physical Education exam.
     - Required Documentation: A photocopy of the passing score report.
   - **Option B. Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge: Physical Education examination from another state or agency.
     - Required Documentation: An original, official score report, or verification letter from the agency that accepted the exam, documenting that you passed the substantially similar exam.
   - **Option C. Coursework:** Completion of 24 semester hours of coursework from an accredited institution in a subject area in which an AEPA/NES exam has not been adopted.
     - Required Documentation: Official transcripts documenting the coursework.
   - **Option D. NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
     - Required Documentation: A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.
   - **Option E. Degree in the Subject:** A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Physical Education.
     - Required Documentation: Official transcripts documenting the degree.
Option F. **Teaching Experience:** Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in PreK-12 Physical Education. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.

- **Required Documentation:** A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying the required teaching experience.

Option G. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to Physical 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.

- **Required Documentation:** A letter(s) from the college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director, verifying postsecondary teaching experience for the specific durations.

Option H. **Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in Physical Education through five years of relevant work experience.

- **Required Documentation:** One of the following:
  - A letter from a public school Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director verifying that they have five years of work experience which demonstrates expertise in the subject area-OR-
  - A resume which details work experience of at least five years which demonstrates expertise in the subject area. *Note:* The Department will review your resume to determine if you have demonstrated expertise through five years of relevant work experience.

Requirements # 7, #8, and #9 are **allowable deficiencies** which must be completed in the specified timeframe.

The following requirements must be completed within **one year** or **three years** to maintain the validity of the certificate:

7. **Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.

8. **U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.

9. **Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in in professional responsibility and ethical conduct.

**Arizona and U.S. Constitution Requirements:** 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. **

**Ethic Requirement:** If you otherwise qualify but are deficient in the Phonics, Dyslexia, and/or Ethics requirements, you have **three years** under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill these requirements. **

**NOTE:** If you do not complete the allowable deficiency 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. **