



# Requirements for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Special Education

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

## Standard Professional Early Childhood Special Education

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

### Requirements for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Special 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 Early Childhood Special 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: Research-based systematic phonics; Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia; Teaching students with exceptionalities; Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children, including behavioral interventions for children with and without disabilities; Typical and atypical child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition with an emphasis on special health care needs for children birth through grade three; Child, family, cultural and community relationships including community organizations that support and assist children with disabilities and their families; Developmentally appropriate instructional and inclusive methodologies for teaching social and emotional development, language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts and diagnosis and remediation of learning difficulties; Early language and literacy development including communication methods in early childhood education/special education; Assessment and evaluation for early childhood special education to include observing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of young children; Substantial experience in practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children with exceptionalities birth through preschool and kindergarten through grade three; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; and Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 serving children with exceptionalities in birth through grade three, which may be completed during the valid period of a 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 and B-2):

**B-1.** Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in Early Childhood Special Education, Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8.

- Required Documentation to meet B-1:* A [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form, completed and signed by the school Superintendent or Personnel/HR director, verifying completion of the required teaching experience.

**-AND-**

**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. Research-based systematic phonics;



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- b. Research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia;
  - c. Teaching students with exceptionalities;
  - d. Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children, including behavioral interventions for children with and without disabilities;
  - e. Typical and atypical child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition with an emphasis on special health care needs for children birth through grade three;
  - f. Child, family, cultural and community relationships including community organizations that support and assist children with disabilities and their families;
  - g. Developmentally appropriate instructional and inclusive methodologies for teaching social and emotional development, language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts;
  - h. Diagnosis and remediation of learning difficulties;
  - i. Early language and literacy development including communication methods in early childhood education/special education;
  - j. Assessment and evaluation for early childhood special education to include observing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of young children;
  - k. Substantial experience in practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children with exceptionalities birth through preschool and kindergarten through grade three;
  - l. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct
- Required Documentation to meet B-2:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.

**Option C. Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable Early Childhood Special 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 Special Education Exam Requirement.

**ONE** of the following (Option A, B, C, D, or E):

**Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA):** A passing score on the AEPA Special Education: Early Childhood (AZ 083) exam.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the official AEPA passing score report.

**Option B. Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education: Early Childhood 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, contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8. *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.



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**Option E. Previous Exam Requirement.** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood exam may be accepted for applications received on or before October 1, 2019 that include documentation of one of the following:

- Official transcripts documenting a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in Early Childhood Special Education; **-OR-**
- A letter from a college or university Department Chair, Dean, or Personnel Director verifying experience teaching courses relevant to Early Childhood Special Education for the past two consecutive years and a total of three years; **-OR-**
- Verification of expertise in Early Childhood Special Education through five years of relevant work experience. Submit a letter from an Arizona 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.

### 6. Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement.

**ONE** of the following (Option A, B, C, D, E, F, G, or H):

**Option A. Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA):** A passing score on the AEPA Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood Education (AZ 036) 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: Early Childhood 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. NBPTS:** A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the NBPTS certificate.

**Option D. Degree in the Subject:** A Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctorate degree from an accredited institution in Early Childhood Special Education or Early Childhood Education.

- Required Documentation:* Official transcripts documenting the degree.

**Option E. Teaching Experience:** Verification of three years of full-time, contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Early Childhood Special Education, Birth-Grade 3 or in a self-contained, Birth-Grade 3 classroom. *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 F. Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to Early Childhood Special Education or 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.

- 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 G. Work Experience:** Demonstration of expertise in Early Childhood Special Education through five years of relevant work experience.



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*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.

**Option H. Previous Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement:** A passing score on the AEPA Special Education: Early Childhood exam may be accepted for applications received on or before October 1, 2019 that include documentation of one of the following:

- A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood exam; **-OR-**
- A passing score on a substantially similar Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood Exam from another state or agency; **-OR-**
- Verification of three years of full-time, contracted teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in Birth-Grade 3 or Age 8. **Note:** Experience teaching in a foreign school does not meet this requirement.

**Requirements #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11 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. Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.
- 10. Dyslexia:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based instructional strategies for delivering differentiated reading instruction, assessment, intervention and remediation to support readers of varying ages and ability levels, including students with dyslexia.
- 11. Ethics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training 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. \*\*

**Phonics, Dyslexia, and Ethics Requirements:** 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. \*\*