REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
STANDARD PROFESSIONAL MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION, K - 12 CERTIFICATE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

THE MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE REPLACED THE CROSS-CATEGORICAL CERTIFICATE ON JANUARY 1, 2016. THE MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE QUALIFIES THE HOLDER TO TEACH STUDENTS WITH MILD TO MODERATE AUTISM, INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY, EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITY, ORTHOPEDIC IMPAIRMENTS, AND/OR OTHER HEALTH IMPAIRMENTS.

STANDARD MILD-MODERATE DISABILITIES SPECIAL EDUCATION, K – 12 CERTIFICATE

The Standard certificate is valid for 12 years and is renewable.

Requirements for the Standard Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education 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 special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in the instruction and behavior management of students with mild-moderate disabilities.
   B. Coursework and Experience: Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution which teach the standards described in R7-2-602 including 37 semester hours of special education courses which shall include:
      1. Foundations of special education; 2. Legal aspects; 3. Effective collaboration and communication practices; 4. Research-based instruction in math; 5. Research-based instruction in English language arts; 6. Classroom management and behavior analysis; 7. Assessment and eligibility; 8. Language development and disorders; 9. Electives; AND one of the following:
         - A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with mild-moderate disabilities;
         - Two years of verified full-time teaching experience in mild-moderate special education, grades K-12. Submit a Verification of Teaching Experience form completed and signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
   C. Out-of-State Certification: A valid, comparable mild-moderate special 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.

** REQUIREMENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ARE FULLY REFERENCED IN THE ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES AND ADMINISTRATIVE CODE. **

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7. Subject Knowledge Special Education Exam. **One of the following:**
   
   A. **AEPA/NES:** A passing score on the NES Subject Knowledge Special Education (NT 601) exam.
   
   B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Subject Knowledge Special 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, teaching special education mild-moderate disabilities in 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.
   
   F. **Post-Secondary Teaching:** Experience teaching courses relevant to mild-moderate disabilities special 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:** Demonstration of expertise in mild-moderate disabilities special education through five years of relevant work experience. **“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. Requirements # 8 and # 9 are required within one year or three years. **

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 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.