



Requirements for the Standard Professional Visually Impaired Certificate, Birth-Grade 12

Arizona Department of Education – Certification Unit

Standard Professional Visually Impaired Certificate, Birth-Grade 12

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

Requirements for the Standard Professional Visually Impaired, Birth-Grade 12 Certificate 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 visual impairment 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; Survey of exceptional students; Teaching methodologies for students with visual impairment; Foundations of instruction of students with visual impairment; Diagnostic and assessment procedures for the visually impaired; Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2- 604 in visually impaired special education birth through grade twelve, 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. Two (2) years of full-time teaching experience in visually impaired special 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.

-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;
 - 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. Survey of exceptional students;
 - d. Teaching methodologies for students with visual impairment;
 - e. Foundations of instruction of students with visual impairment;
 - f. Diagnostic and assessment procedures for the visually impaired;
 - g. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct.
- *Required Documentation:* Official transcript(s) documenting completion of the coursework or trainings.



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Option C. **Out-of-State Certification.** The applicant holds a valid, comparable Visually Impaired 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 requirements listed under #5, #6, #7, #10, #11, and #12.

- *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. **NES/AEPA:** A passing score on the National Evaluation Series (NES) or Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary (NT 051) exam.

- a. *Required Documentation:* A photocopy of the official NES or AEPA score report.

Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Assessment of Professional Knowledge-Elementary examination from another state or agency.

- a. *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).

- a. *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 K-8 or special education grades K-12. *Note:* Experience teaching in a foreign school does **not** meet this requirement.

- a. *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. **AEPA/NES:** A passing score on the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) Special Education: Visually Impaired (#032) exam.

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

Option B. **Out-of-State Exam:** A passing score on a substantially similar Special Education: Visually Impaired examination from another state or agency.

- a. *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 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 Visually Impaired Special 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 Visually Impaired Special 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.



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

- *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 Visually Impaired Special 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.

7. Braille Competency: Demonstration of competency in Braille through one of the following:

- Option A. A passing score on the original version of the National Library of Congress certification exam;
- Option B. A valid certificate for a literary Braille transcriber issued by the National Library of Congress;
- Option C. A passing score on the Braille exam developed and administered by the University of Arizona;
- Option D. A passing score on a Braille exam administered by another state.

- *Required Documentation:* An official score report, verification letter, or copy of the certificate verifying Braille competency.

Requirements # 8, #9, #10, #11, and #12 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:

- 8. Arizona Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the Arizona Constitution.
- 9. U.S. Constitution:** A college course or the appropriate examination covering the provisions and principles of the United States Constitution.
- 10. Phonics:** A college course or Board approved or accredited training in research-based systematic phonics.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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. **



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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. **