

### Appropriately Certified and Highly Qualified Comparison

**Public School Teachers must be both appropriately certified AND highly qualified for their assigned core content position(s).**

Arizona State Certification Requirements	Federal Highly Qualified Requirements
Public school teachers <i>in all areas</i> must be <b><i>appropriately certified</i></b> for their assigned teaching position. Charter school teachers (with the exception of special education teachers) are not required to hold an Arizona teaching certificate.	Public school teachers <i>in core content areas</i> must be <b><i>highly qualified</i></b> at time of hire or the time of transfer into another position. The primary requirement for a teacher is to demonstrate depth of knowledge for their assigned position and/or content area.
<b>Arizona Teaching Certificates</b> Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 3), Elementary (grades 1-8), Secondary (grades 6-12), Arts Education (PreK-12), Career and Technical Education, Special Education	<b>Core Academic Content Areas</b> Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, Economics, Elementary Education, English, Foreign Languages, General Science, Geography, History, Mathematics, MS General Science, MS Language Arts/Reading, MS Mathematics, MS Social Studies, Music, Physical Science, Physics, Political Science/Government & Visual Arts
<b>Basic Teacher Certification requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds a Bachelor's degree</li> <li>• Completion of a teacher preparation program <u>OR</u> hold a valid, comparable teaching certificate from another state</li> <li>• Pass a Professional Knowledge exam for the certificate area</li> <li>• Pass a Subject Knowledge exam for the certificate area</li> </ul>	<b>Basic Highly Qualified Requirements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds a Bachelor's degree <b>AND</b></li> <li>• A valid Arizona teaching certificate (charter schools are exempt from this requirement with the exception of Special Education positions) <b>AND</b></li> </ul>
<b>Early Childhood Certificate (Birth-Grade 3) Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEPA Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood exam <b>OR</b> comparable out-of-state exam <b>OR</b> National Board Certification-Early Childhood Generalist</li> </ul> <b>Elementary Certificate (1-8) Certificate Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEPA <u>OR</u> NES Subject Knowledge Elementary Education exam <b>OR</b> Comparable out-of-state exam <b>OR</b> National Board Certification- Middle Childhood Generalist</li> </ul>	<b>Elementary (Self-Contained K-8 grades):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed the Elementary Subject Knowledge AEPA/NES exam <b>OR</b></li> <li>Passed the Early Childhood Subject Knowledge AEPA/NES exam (covers K-3 only) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Holds a valid National Board Early Childhood- Generalist Certificate (covers K-3 only) <b>OR</b></li> </ol>
<b>Secondary Certificate (6-12) Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEPA/NES Secondary Subject Knowledge exam in the subject area.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If a proficiency exam is not offered in the subject area, 24 semester hours of subject area coursework is required. If no exam is offered in a foreign language, the ACTFL exam may substitute for the 24 semester hours of foreign language coursework; <b>OR</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Comparable out-of-state exam in the 6-12 content area; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• National Board Certification in the content area; <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Master's degree in the content area</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earned 100 points on the AZ HOUSSE for Elementary Teachers, completed no later than June 30, 2007 (documentation required) <b>OR</b></li> <li>HQ Teacher Reciprocity</li> </ol> <b>Secondary (Departmentalized 6-12<sup>th</sup> grades):</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Passed the appropriate AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge exam <b>OR</b></li> <li>Holds an advanced degree in the core content area <b>OR</b></li> <li>Holds National Board Certification in the core content area (Generalist Certificates are not accepted) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Holds a major/24 credit hours in the core content area <b>OR</b></li> </ol>
<b>Special Education Certificates Subject Knowledge Exam Requirement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge Special Education exam <b>OR</b> Comparable out-of-state exam in the special education area <b>OR</b> Master's degree in the Special Education area <b>OR</b> National Board Certification in the special education area.</li> <li>• Special Education Subject Knowledge exams do <b>NOT</b> meet highly qualified requirements for core academic area(s).</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earned 100 points in the core content area on the AZ HOUSSE rubric for Middle, Junior High, High School, Visual Arts &amp; Music no later than June 30, 2007 (documentation required) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Highly Qualified Reciprocity (documentation required) <b>OR</b></li> <li>Passed an ACTFL exam (for foreign languages other than Spanish, German &amp; French)</li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> Please refer to the "Educator Requirements for Highly Qualified" attestation booklet for specific requirements by position.</p>

**Appropriately Certified and Highly Qualified Comparison**  
***Public School Teachers must be both appropriately certified AND highly qualified for their assigned core content position(s).***

**Current Core Content AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge Exams:**

Art	German
Biology	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Chinese	*Middle Grades English Language Arts
Early Childhood Education	*Middle Grades General Science
Earth Science	*Middle Grades Mathematics
Economics	*Middle Grades Social Science
Elementary Education Subtests I and II	Music
English Language Arts	Physics
French	Political Science/American Government
General Science	Spanish
Geography	

\*Middle Grades exams cover 7 & 8 grade content only

**NOTE:** There is no AEPA/NES exam for Physical Science (9-12). For other foreign languages candidates must pass the appropriate ACTFL exam or have at least 24 semester hours of coursework in the language.

**Special Education AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge Exams:**

Elementary Education Subtests I and II (required for K-8 special education “teacher of record”)	Special Education: Learning Disability (27)
NES Special Education (replaced cross- category) (NT601)	Special Education: Mental Retardation (required for Intellectual Disability certificate) (28)
Special Education: Early Childhood (23)	Special Education: Orthopedic/Other Health Impairments (29)
Special Education: Emotional Disability (24)	Special Education: Severely & Profoundly Disabled (30)
Special Education: Hearing Impaired (26)	Special Education: Visually Impaired (32)