



## SENATE BILL 1042 EXAM WAIVERS EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2017

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **Background**

Senate Bill (SB) 1042, which takes effect on August 9, 2017, provides multiple new options for Educator Certification applicants to waive the professional knowledge and subject knowledge exams which are required to qualify for a teaching certificate. The new options provided by SB 1042 include the following:

- The professional knowledge and subject knowledge exams may be waived if a person has passed corresponding portions of an examination that is substantially similar to the examination adopted by the State Board of Education.
- The professional knowledge and subject knowledge exams may be waived if a person has three years of full-time teaching experience in any state, including Arizona, in the same area of certification in which the person is applying for certification in this state.
- A subject knowledge exam may be waived with **any** of the following:
  - The applicant has taught courses relevant to the subject area for the last two consecutive years and for a total of at least three years at one or more regionally or nationally accredited public or private postsecondary institutions.
  - The applicant has a bachelor's degree, master's degree, or doctoral degree in the subject area.
  - The applicant demonstrates expertise in the subject area through five years of work experience that is relevant to the subject area.

This FAQ document is intended to provide clarification on specific criteria to qualify for exam waivers under SB 1042.

#### **Waiver of Exams with Out-of-State Exams**

##### ***1. How will I know if my out-of-state exam will be accepted by the Certification Unit?***

Substantially similar out-of-state exams that may be used to waive Arizona educator exams will be posted to the Certification website after they have been reviewed and approved by the Certification Unit.

##### ***2. What documentation will be required to waive an Arizona exam with an out-of-state exam?***

You must submit an original, official exam score report **or** an official letter from a Teacher Certification office in another state verifying that you passed the exam.



## Waiver of Exams with Teaching Experience

### ***3. What documentation will be required to waive an Arizona Educator Professional Knowledge and/or Subject Knowledge exam with teaching experience?***

You must submit a Verification of PreK-12 Teaching Experience form, completed and signed by a superintendent or personnel director, documenting that you have three years of full-time teaching experience in **a school within the United States or a Department of Defense school**. The Verification of Teaching Experience form must also show that your teaching experience was in the same grade range and subject area as the certificate you are seeking.

### ***4. How will the Certification Unit determine if my teaching experience will waive a required Professional Knowledge exam?***

The Verification of Teaching Experience form must indicate that your teaching experience aligns with the grade level or special education area as indicated below:

- Professional Knowledge Early Childhood exam: Three years of full-time teaching in Birth-Grade 3.
- Professional Knowledge Elementary exam: Three years of full-time teaching experience in grades K-8 or K-12 special education.
- Professional Knowledge Secondary exam: Three years of full-time teaching experience in grades 6-12.

### ***5. How will the Certification Unit determine if my teaching experience will waive a subject knowledge exam?***

The Verification of PreK-12 Teaching Experience form must document that you have three years of teaching experience which aligns with the grade level and subject or special education area as indicated below:

- Subject Knowledge Elementary Education Subtest I and II exam: Three years of full-time teaching in a self-contained K-8 classroom.
- Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education exam: Three years of full-time teaching in a self-contained Birth-Grade 3 classroom.
- Subject Knowledge Special Education exam: Three years of full-time special education teaching in the same disability category as the special education certificate.
- Middle Grades Subject Knowledge exams: Three years of full-time experience teaching the applicable subject in a departmentalized classroom, grades 6-8. Please note that this teaching experience may only be used to add an additional approved area to an existing Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education certificate.
- Subject Knowledge Secondary exam: Three years of full-time experience teaching the subject in a in a departmentalized classroom, grades 6-12. However, in order to waive the



Secondary Subject Knowledge exam requirement to teach Mathematics, English, Social Studies, or Science you must have three years of full-time experience teaching the subject in grades 9-12.

**6. *Can experience working in a foreign school be used to waive the exam requirements?***

No. SB 1042 stipulates that teacher certification exams may be waived if “the person has been a full-time teacher in any state, including this state, for at least three years in the same area of certification in which the person is applying for certification in this state.” Therefore, the teaching experience must have been either in a school within the United States or a Department of Defense school.

**Waiver of a Subject Knowledge Exam with a Bachelor’s, Master’s or Doctoral Degree**

**7. *Will a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral degree in Elementary Education or Early Childhood Education waive the corresponding Subject Knowledge exam?***

Yes. A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degree in Elementary Education will waive the NES Subject Knowledge Elementary Education Subtest I and II. A Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral Degree in Early Childhood Education will waive the AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education exam.

**8. *Will a Bachelor’s, Master’s, or Doctoral degree in Special Education be used to waive the Special Education exam requirement?***

Yes. The Certification Unit will accept a special education degree to waive the NES or AEPA exam requirement as long as the degree is in the same special education area as the certificate the applicant is seeking.

**9. *Will a Bachelor’s degree in Secondary Education with a major or emphasis in a subject area be used to waive the Secondary Subject Knowledge exam requirement?***

As long as the Bachelor’s degree is in both secondary education and the subject area, it can be accepted to meet the Secondary Subject Knowledge exam requirement.

**Waiver of Subject Knowledge Exams with Five Years of Relevant Work Experience**

**10. *How will the Certification Unit determine if my work experience may be used to waive a subject knowledge exam?***

The Department is working with Board staff to develop a matrix which will be used to determine if an applicant’s work experience will waive a Subject Knowledge exam. The Certification Unit will provide this matrix once it is completed and approved by the Board.