

Arizona State Board of Education Certification Advisory Committee Agenda

Issue: Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding proposed amendments to R7-2-608 regarding Early Childhood Teaching Certificates.

Action Item

Background and Discussion

Senate Bill (SB) 1572, which took effect in September 2021, amended A.R.S. § 15-501.01 to establish the following changes:

- Individuals with an early childhood or elementary certificate are required to complete, within three years of certificate issuance, 45 clock hours of training or 3 semester hours of college coursework, or the equivalent, in both research-based:
 - Science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics instruction; and
 - Reading instruction, including training on assessments, instructional practices and interventions to improve student reading proficiency, including for students with dyslexia.
- Directed the Board to establish a literacy endorsement as a requirement for teachers who provide literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade five. The Board adopted the Literacy, K-5 endorsement in conformance with this requirement.

The Department is proposing updates to the Standard Professional Early Childhood certificate rule to align with A.R.S. § 15-501.01, correct technical issues, and align requirements with other Standard Professional teaching certificates. The proposed updates include the following:

- Align the reading coursework requirements with updates from SB 1572.
- Strike outdated language which provides the requirements for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Education Certificate prior to August 1, 2018.
- Update the grade range indicated on the certificate from “birth through age 8 or grade three” to “birth through grade three”. The use of “age 8” is unnecessary since grade three includes up to age nine.
- Remove the requirement of a “practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children birth through preschool in R7-2-608(E)(b)(xi)”. “Practicum” is not described in R7-2-604, which provides the rules for educator preparation program approval and a “practicum” does not fit with the list of course topics in subsection (E)(b)(i) through (xii).
- Expand the grade range of the required 12-weeks of capstone to include preschool through grade three. This change is consistent with other Standard Professional teaching certificate by aligning the grade range for student teaching with the grade range of the certificate and provides flexibility to educator preparation programs by allowing for the placement of student teachers in a preschool classroom.
- Remove conflicting language in R7-2-608(E)(2) related to the number of years of teaching experience required for individuals who have not completed an early childhood teacher preparation program.

The following color coding is used for the proposed rule changes in this document:

Changes highlighted in green are technical changes which correct errors, remove unnecessary verbiage, or provide clarification.

Changes highlighted in blue are substantive changes that are needed to align the rule with state statutes.

Changes highlighted in yellow are technical changes that may require further discussion.

Recommendation to the Certification Advisory Committee

That the Certification Advisory Committee recommend the proposed changes to Board rule R7-2-608 regarding the Standard Professional Early Childhood Education certificate.

DRAFT

R7-2-608. Early Childhood Education Teaching Certificates-Certificate

- A. ~~A standard early childhood education certificate shall be required for individuals teaching in public school early childhood education programs, except as provided in R7-2-611 or in R7-2-615(N). For individuals teaching in grades kindergarten through three, this certificate is optional. An Early Childhood Special Education certificate as described in R7-2-611 is not required for individuals who hold the Early Childhood Teaching Certificate as described in this Section in combination with an Arizona cross-categorical mild/moderate disabilities, specialized special education, or moderate to severe disabilities teaching certificate as described in R7-2-611. The Standard Professional Early Childhood Education Certificate authorizes the holder to teach students in a birth through grade three classroom. An individual who holds a Standard Professional Early Childhood Education certificate described in this section in combination with an Arizona cross-categorical, specialized special education, mild/moderate disabilities, or moderate/severe disabilities special education certificate described in R7-2-611 is also authorized to teach early childhood special education, birth-age eight or grade three.~~
- B. ~~For the purposes of this Section, public school early childhood education programs means education programs provided by local education agencies, including their sub-grantees and contracted providers, for children birth through age 8 for the purpose of providing academically and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that are standards-based with defined curriculum and comprehensive in content to include all appropriate developmental and academic areas as defined by the Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards or the Arizona K through 12 Academic Standards approved by the Board.~~
- C. Except as noted, all certificates are subject to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607 and the renewal requirements in R7-2-619.
- D. ~~Standard Professional Early Childhood Education Certificate—birth through age 8 or through grade three. The requirements are:~~
- ~~1. A bachelor's degree, and~~
 - ~~2. One of the following:~~
 - ~~a. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood education from an accredited institution or a teacher preparation program approved by the Board, or~~
 - ~~b. Early childhood education coursework and practicum experience which teaches the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602 and includes both of the following:~~
 - ~~i. Thirty-seven semester hours of early childhood education courses to include all of the following areas of study:~~
 - ~~(1) Foundations of early childhood education;~~
 - ~~(2) Child guidance and classroom management;~~
 - ~~(3) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;~~
 - ~~(4) Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition;~~
 - ~~(5) Child, family, cultural and community relationships;~~
 - ~~(6) Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;~~
 - ~~(7) Early language and literacy development;~~
 - ~~(8) Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children; and~~
 - ~~ii. A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum, including:~~

- ~~(1) A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth through preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth through preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. This verification may come from a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities; and~~
- ~~(2) A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten through grade three. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in kindergarten through grade three in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience; or~~

~~c. A valid early childhood education certificate from another state;~~

~~3. A valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety, and~~

~~4. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the ACPA is adopted by the Board, and~~

~~5. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment unless the applicant has a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in a relevant content area or otherwise qualifies for a waiver of the subject knowledge examination.~~

E. C. Standard Professional Early Childhood Education Certificate – birth through **age 8 or through** grade three **for applications received on and after August 1, 2018.**

1. The requirements include all of the following:

a. A bachelor's degree;

b. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood education from a Board-approved educator preparation program or from an accredited institution offering substantially similar training addressing the following topics and any others as required by law:

i. ~~Research-based systematic phonics, including early language and literacy development. At least forty-five classroom hours of Department-approved training or three college-level credit hours, or the equivalent, in research-based science of reading, including systematic phonics;~~

ii. ~~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. At least forty-five classroom hours of Department approved training or three college-level credit hours, or the equivalent, in research-based reading instruction, including training on assessments, instructional practices and interventions to improve student reading proficiency. The instruction provided must meet the requirements for dyslexia training prescribed in A.R.S. § 15-219;~~

iii. Foundations of early childhood education;

iv. Teaching students with exceptionalities;

v. Child guidance and classroom management, including characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;

vi. Child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition;

vii. Child, family, cultural and community relationships;

viii. Developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;

- ix. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children;
 - x. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications and accommodations;
 - xi. ~~Practicum as described in R7-2-604 serving children birth through preschool;~~
 - xii. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; and
 - xiii. ~~xii.~~ xii. Twelve-week capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 ~~children in kindergarten in a preschool through grade three classroom,~~ which may be completed during the valid period of ~~a teaching intern an alternative teaching~~ or student teaching intern certificate. One year of verified full-time teaching experience in preschool through grade three may be substituted for the capstone experience requirement. For individuals seeking dual certification, any capstone experience requirements may be met through separate eight-week capstone experiences in each of the certification areas sought.
- c. A valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety;
 - d. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment; and
 - e. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, unless the applicant ~~has a bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree in a relevant content area or otherwise~~ qualifies for a waiver of the subject knowledge examination pursuant to the provisions in R7-2-607.
2. Applicants may meet the requirements in subsection (E)(1)(b) with the submission of an application for the Standard Professional Early Childhood Education certificate that includes evidence of two years of verified full-time teaching experience serving children birth through grade three, and Board-approved or accredited training or coursework which teaches the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602 and subsections (E)(1)(b)(i) through ~~(xii) (x).~~ One year of verified full-time teaching experience serving children in kindergarten through grade three may be substituted for the capstone experience.