

Issue: Presentation, discussion and possible action regarding proposed amendments to R7-2-608 regarding the Standard Professional Elementary Teaching Certificate.

Background and Discussion

Senate Bill 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 Elementary certificate rule to align with A.R.S. § 15-501.01 and correct technical issues. The proposed updates include the following:

- Strike outdated language which provides the requirements for the Standard Professional Elementary Certificate prior to August 1, 2018.
- Align the reading coursework requirements with updates pursuant to SB 1572.
- Correct rule language related to the waiver of the subject knowledge assessment.

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 statute.

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

Recommendation to the Certification Advisory Committee

That the Certification Advisory Committee recommend the proposed changes to Board rule R7-2-609 regarding the Standard Professional Elementary, K-8 certificate to the Board.

R7-2-609. Elementary Teaching ~~Certificates~~ Certificate

A. Except as noted, all certificates are subject to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607 and the renewal requirements in R7-2-619.

B. ~~Standard Professional Elementary Certificate—grades K through eight. The requirements are:~~

1. ~~A bachelor's degree;~~

2. ~~One of the following:~~

a. ~~Completion of a teacher preparation program in elementary education from an accredited institution or a Board-approved teacher preparation program, described in R7-2-604; or~~

b. ~~Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602, including at least eight semester hours of practicum in grades K through eight. Two years of verified teaching experience in grades Prekindergarten through eight may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or~~

e. ~~A valid elementary certificate from another state.~~

3. ~~A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment;~~

4. ~~A passing score on the 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 assessment;~~

5. ~~A valid fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety; and~~

6. ~~Forty-five hours or three semester hours of instruction in research-based systematic phonics. An accredited institution or other provider may provide this instruction.~~

C. ~~Standard Professional Elementary Certificate – grades kindergarten through eight~~ 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 elementary 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. At least forty-five classroom hours of Department-approved training or three semester hours of instruction in college-level coursework, or the equivalent, in research-based science of reading systematic phonics, including language and literacy development;

ii. For applications received on and after October 15, 2020, at At least forty-five classroom hours of Department-approved training or three semester hours of instruction college coursework, or the equivalent, 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 including training on assessments, instructional practices and interventions to improve student reading proficiency. Instruction provided must meet the requirements for dyslexia training prescribed in A.R.S. § 15-219;

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

iv. Instructional design and lesson planning, including modifications, and accommodations;

v. The learning environment, including classroom management;

vi. Assessing, monitoring and reporting progress;

vii. Teaching students with exceptionalities;

viii. Professional responsibility and ethical conduct; and

ix. Twelve weeks of capstone experience as described in R7-2-604 in grades kindergarten through eight, 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 grades kindergarten through eight 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 passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment;
 - d. A passing score on the 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 assessment pursuant to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607; and
 - e. A valid fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
2. Applicants may meet the requirements in subsection (C)(1)(b) with the submission of an application for the Standard Professional Elementary certificate that includes evidence of two years of verified full-time teaching experience in grades kindergarten through eight, and Board-approved or accredited training or coursework which teaches the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602 and subsections (C)(1)(b)(i) through (viii).

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