

R7-2-611. Special Education Teaching Certificates

- 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. An Early Childhood Special Education certificate as described in this Section is not required for individuals who hold the Early Childhood endorsement as described in R7-2-615 in combination with an Arizona cross-categorical, specialized special education, or severe and profound teaching certificate as described in this Section. An Early Childhood Special Education certificate as described in this Section is not required for individuals who hold the Early Childhood Teaching Certificate as described in R7-2-608 in combination with an Arizona cross-categorical, specialized special education, or severe and profound teaching certificate as described in this Section.
- B. Terms used in this Section are defined in A.R.S. § 15-761.
- C. Provisional Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate - grades K through 12 for applications received through December 31, 2015, and Provisional Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate grades K through 12 for applications received on and after January 1, 2016.
1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 2. The holder is qualified to teach students with mild to moderate ~~mental retardation, autism, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury~~, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and/or other health impairments.
 3. The requirements are:
 - a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in special education from an accredited institution, which included courses in ~~mental retardation, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and other health impairments~~ the instruction and behavior management of students with mild-moderate disabilities; or
 - ii. A valid mild-moderate special education certificate from another state; or
 - iii. Semester hours of education courses as follows:
 - A. For applications received through December 31, 2015: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses and eight semester hours of practicum with students representing at least three of the five disability areas. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students; teaching methodologies and strategies for students with disabilities; foundations course in mild to moderate ~~mental retardation~~ intellectual disabilities, learning disability, emotional disabilities, and physical/health impairment; and diagnosis and assessment of mild disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience in special education in grades K through 12 may substitute for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - B. For applications received on and after January 1, 2016: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including 37 semester hours of special education courses with shall include: (a) Foundations of special education; (b) Legal aspects; (c) Effective collaboration and communication practices; (d) Research-based instruction in math; (e) Research-based instruction in English language arts; (f) Classroom management and behavior analysis; (g) Assessment and eligibility, (h) Language development and disorders, (i) Electives; and a minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with mild-moderate disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience in mild-moderate special education in grades K through 12 may substitute for the eight semester hours of practicum.
 - iii. ~~A valid cross-categorical special education certificate from another state.~~
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
 - d. A passing score on the ~~cross-categorical~~ special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- D. Standard Cross-Categorical Special Education Certificate - grades K through 12 for applications received through December 31, 2015, and Standard Mild-Moderate Disabilities Special Education Certificate grades K through 12 for applications received on and after January 1, 2016.
1. The certificate is valid for six years.
 2. The holder is qualified to teach students with mild to moderate ~~mental retardation, autism, intellectual disabilities, traumatic brain injury~~, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments and/or other health impairments.
 3. The requirements are:
 - a. A provisional cross-categorical Special Education certificate or mild-moderate disabilities special education certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and

- c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- E. Provisional Specialized Special Education Certificate - grades K through 12.
1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 2. No new applications for a Provisional Specialized Special Education Certificate will be accepted after December 31, 2015.
- ~~23.~~ The holder is qualified to teach students with ~~mental retardation~~ intellectual disabilities, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments or other health impairments, as specified on the certificate.
- ~~34.~~ The requirements are:
- a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in the specified area of special education from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses and eight semester hours of practicum in the designated area of disability. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students, teaching methodologies for students with disabilities, foundations of instruction in the designated area of disability, and diagnosis and assessment of disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience in the area of disability in grades K through 12 may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - iii. A valid special education certificate in the specified area from another state.
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
 - d. A passing score on the specified disability special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- F. Standard Specialized Special Education Certificate - grades K through 12.
1. The certificate is valid for six years.
 2. The holder is qualified to teach students with ~~mental retardation~~ intellectual disabilities, emotional disability, specific learning disability, orthopedic impairments or other health impairments, as specified on the certificate.
 3. The requirements are:
 - a. A provisional Special Education certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- G. Provisional Severely and Profoundly Disabled Certificate - grades K through 12.
1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 2. The holder is qualified to teach students with severe and profound disabilities.
- ~~23.~~ The requirements are:
- a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in severely and profoundly disabled education from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. A valid severe and profound special education certificate from another state; or
 - iii. Semester hours of education courses as follows:
 - A. For applications received through December 31, 2015: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses and eight semester hours of practicum. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students, teaching methodologies for students with severe and profound disabilities, foundations of instruction of students with severe and profound disabilities, and diagnostic and assessment procedures for students with severe and profound disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience with students in grades PreK-12 who are severely and profoundly disabled may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - B. For applications received on and after January 1, 2016: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including 37 semester hours of special education courses with shall include: (a) Foundations low incidence disabilities; (b) Legal aspects; (c) Effective collaboration and communication practices; (d) Adaptive communication; (e) Instructional strategies across the curriculum; (f) Classroom management and behavior analysis; (g) Assessment and eligibility, (i) Electives; and a minimum of eight semester hours of practicum with students with severe and profound disabilities. Two years of verified teaching experience in special education in grades K through 12 who have severe and profound disabilities may substitute for the eight semester hours of practicum.
 - iii. ~~A valid Severely and Profoundly Disabled certificate from another state.~~
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,

- d. A passing score on the severely and profoundly disabled special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. A valid fingerprint card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- H. Standard Severely and Profoundly Disabled Certificate - grades K through 12.
- 1. The certificate is valid for six years.
 - 2. The holder is qualified to teach students with severe and profound disabilities.
23. The requirements are:
- a. A provisional severely and profoundly disabled certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- I. Provisional Hearing Impaired Certificate - birth through grade 12.
- 1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 - 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in hearing impaired education from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses for the hearing impaired and eight semester hours of practicum. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students, teaching methodologies for students with hearing impairment, foundations of instruction of students with hearing impairment, and diagnostic and assessment procedures for the hearing impaired. Two years of verified teaching experience in the area of hearing impaired in grades PreK-12 may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - iii. A valid hearing impaired certificate from another state.
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
 - d. A passing score on the hearing impaired special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- J. Standard Hearing Impaired Certificate - birth through grade 12.
- 1. The certificate is valid for six years.
 - 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A provisional hearing impaired certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- K. Provisional Visually Impaired Certificate - birth through grade 12.
- 1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 - 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in visual impairment from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602, including 21 semester hours of special education courses for the visually impaired and eight semester hours of practicum. Special education courses shall include survey of exceptional students, teaching methodologies for students with visual impairment, foundations of instruction of students with visual impairment, and diagnostic and assessment procedures for the visually impaired. Two years of verified teaching experience in the area of visually impaired in grades PreK-12 may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - iii. A valid visually impaired special education certificate from another state.
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
 - d. A passing score on the visually impaired special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. Demonstration of competency in Braille through one of the following:
 - i. A passing score on the original version of the National Library of Congress certification exam, or
 - ii. A valid certificate for a literary Braille transcriber issued by the National Library of Congress, or
 - iii. A passing score on a Braille exam administered by another state, or
 - iv. A passing score on the Braille exam developed and administered by the University of Arizona. Individuals who take this test and are not students at the University of Arizona may be assessed a fee.
 - f. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

- L. Standard Visually Impaired Certificate - birth through grade 12.
1. The certificate is valid for six years.
 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A provisional visually impaired certificate;
 - b. A passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.
- M. Provisional Early Childhood Special Education Certificate - birth through 5 years for applications received through December 31, 2015, and birth through age 8 or grade 3 for applications received on and after January 1, 2016.
1. The certificate is valid for three years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A bachelor's degree,
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood special education from an accredited institution; or
 - ii. A valid early childhood special education certificate from another state; or
 - iii. Early childhood education coursework and practicum experience which teaches the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602 and includes the following:
 - A. For applications received through December 31, 2015: Forty-five semester hours of education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, including child development and learning, language development, social and emotional development, curriculum development and implementation, and assessment and evaluation, early childhood special education, and eight semester hours of practicum in early childhood special education. Two years of verified teaching experience in the area of early childhood special education may be substituted for the eight semester hours of practicum; or
 - B. For applications received on and after January 1, 2016:
 1. Thirty-seven semester hours of early childhood education courses which teach the standards described in R7-2-602, to include all of the following areas of study:
 - (a) Foundations early childhood education and special education;
 - (b) Behavioral interventions for children with an without disabilities;
 - (c) Characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;
 - (d) Typical and atypical child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition with an emphasis on special health care needs for children birth through grade 3;
 - (e) Child, family, cultural and community relationships including community organizations that support and assist children with disabilities and their families;
 - (f) Developmentally appropriate instructional and inclusive methodologies for teaching social and emotional development, language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts and diagnosis and remediation of learning difficulties;
 - (g) Early language and literacy development including communication methods in early childhood education/special education; (h) Assessment and evaluation for early childhood special education to include observing, assessing, monitoring and reporting on the progress of young children; and
 2. A minimum of eight semester hours of practicum, including:
 - (a) A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs birth through preschool or one year of full-time teaching experience with children identified with special needs birth through preschool, and
 - (b) A minimum of four semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children with identified special needs in kindergarten through grade 3 or one year of full time teaching experience with children identified with special needs kindergarten through grade 3.
 - iii. ~~A valid early childhood special education certificate from another state.~~
 - c. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment,
 - d. A passing score on the early childhood special education portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment, and
 - e. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.

N. Standard Early Childhood Special Education Certificate - birth through 5 years for applications received through December 31, 2015, and birth through age 8 or grade 3 for applications received on and after January 1, 2016.

 1. The certificate is valid for six years.

2. Requirements are:

- a. A provisional early childhood Special Education certificate;
- b. Passing score on the performance portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment. If a performance portion of the Proficiency Assessment has not been adopted by the Board, two years of verified full-time teaching experience may be used to fulfill this requirement; and
- c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by the Arizona Department of Public Safety.