



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Arizona Department of Education
Certification Updates

SUMMER SCHEDULE FOR CERTIFICATION

The certification office will not be open to the public on Saturdays during the months of July and August. Due to budget constraints, certification employees will not be able to work overtime to meet the increased volume typically experienced in the summer. Please understand we will work as hard as we can to process files as quickly as possible; however, there will not be any files "Rushed." Files will be processed in date stamp order. Please coordinate with your school employees so they can apply for certification services in a timely manner.

EMERGENCY TEACHING CERTIFICATES

The Certification Unit will not accept any applications for Emergency Teaching Certificates (ETCs) or Emergency Substitute Certificates (ESCs) for the 2009/2010 school year until July 1, 2009. All requests for ETC's must be dated July 1, 2009 or after and signed by the Superintendent. This is just a reminder all ETC requests must be completed on the computer. Attached is the current ETC request form that needs to be used.

During the USED monitoring of Title II in January, the Arizona Department of Education received a finding on Critical Element 1.4: "The SEA ensures that all teachers hired after the first day of the 2002-03 school year to teach in Title I programs were highly qualified at time of hire."

In an effort to address this finding, the following adjustment will be made to the issuance of Emergency Teaching Certificates (ETC):

No emergency teaching certificate will be issued to a teacher of a core academic subject, including Special Education, in a Title I school effective July 1, 2009. Anyone teaching on an ETC automatically does not meet the highly qualified requirements even if he/she meets the content competency requirement.

Failure to comply with federal regulations and reporting requirements would result in possible enforcement of actions against the state which could include loss of funding. Teachers who do not meet the highly qualified requirements have the following options: transition into an alternative path to certification program or successfully complete the requirements for a provisional teaching certificate. Please contact Rosemary Gaona [602-364-3553] or Demetrius Ford [602-542-3153] for assistance in transitioning these candidates to an alternative path to certification program. To assist candidates in transitioning to the Intern Teaching Certificate, Pearson/NES is establishing an additional August AEP content testing date. This would allow candidates the opportunity to take and pass the content AEP exam in June, July, and/or August. Please contact Patty Hardy, Director of Title II [phone 602-542-3626], with questions regarding specific candidates.

IVP FINGERPRINT CLEARANCE CARD

Effective **January 1, 2008**, per Arizona State Statute A.R.S.§ 15-106, all teachers and persons who are required to be fingerprinted to work in the classroom are **required to have an Identity Verified Prints (IVP) Fingerprint Clearance Card**. A valid non-IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card issued prior to January 1, 2008, will be accepted by Certification. Non IVP Fingerprint Clearance Cards issued **after** January 1, 2008 **will not** be accepted.

In order to ensure individuals are receiving the correct Fingerprint packet, please make sure you are using the new **IVP** packets from the Department of Public Safety (DPS). You can contact DPS at (602) 223-2279 to request **IVP** fingerprint card packets. Effective January 1, 2009, the fee for all fingerprint clearance cards (including IVP) has increased to \$69.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS

At its December 8, 2008 meeting, the State Board approved the proposed changes to the Early Childhood Certificate and the Early Childhood Endorsement. The State Board approved July 1st, 2012 as the date by which all Birth-through-Kindergarten teachers must hold either the Early Childhood certification or the Early Childhood Endorsement.

There are also new options for those with certificates in either Elementary or Special Education to qualify for the Early Childhood Endorsement. The new options are:

Option A:

- Valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education teaching certificate,
- 21 semester hours required early childhood coursework,
- 4 semester hours practicum or one year teaching in birth-preschool,
- 4 semester hours student teaching or one year teaching in K-3, and
- A passing score on the AEPA Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam.

Option B:

- Valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education teaching certificate,
- 4 semester hours practicum or one year teaching in birth-preschool,
- 4 semester hours student teaching or one year teaching in K-3,
- A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge-Early Childhood exam, and
- A passing score on the AEPA Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam.

Option C

- A valid Arizona Elementary or Arizona Special Education certificate issued prior to July 1, 2012,
- Three years of Birth-grade 3 teaching experience within 10 years prior to July 1, 2012, and
- A passing score on the AEPA Early Childhood Subject Knowledge exam.

PRE-K – 12 ARTS EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

The Pre-K -12 Arts Education certificate became effective October 1, 2008. The certificate is a stand-alone certificate and issued in the areas of Music, Art, Dance and Dramatic Arts **only**. The new certificate will allow arts education teachers to hold only one certificate, which will save them the \$60 endorsement fee. It will also give them the option of taking either the Professional Knowledge Elementary or the Professional Knowledge Secondary AEPA exam. Additional approved areas and endorsements **cannot** be added to the Pre-K – 12 Arts Education certificate **except** for the required SEI Endorsement. The Art Endorsement K-12 and Music Endorsement K-12 are still available and can be added to a valid Arizona elementary, secondary, or special education certificate.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) CERTIFICATES

Effective May 1, 2009 new CTE rules go into effect. These rules were developed with significant input from the field and will offer more options to qualify for CTE certification. These new rules can be found at <http://www.ade.az.gov/stateboard/Rules/> . We will work with those teachers who are currently on provisional CTE certificates as they transition to the new rules.

FOREIGN TEACHER TEACHING CERTIFICATE

The Provisional Foreign Teacher Teaching Certificate (PFTT) was instituted with the passage of the State Board rule R7-2-612 K. **This certificate is required for anyone teaching in an Arizona district school and who is in the US on a visa.** The certificate **must** be used in place of other certificates when arranging for a foreign teacher to teach in a district. We **cannot** issue an Emergency Teaching certificate for these individuals in lieu of this new certificate.

The PFTT is valid for one year, and may be extended for an additional year if agreed to by the contracting district. The requirements for this certificate are:

- a) Verification of comparable training
- b) IVP fingerprint card
- c) Demonstration of English fluency by passing the TOEFL test
- d) "Intent to Hire" letter from the district
- e) Verification regarding foreign exchange status

Applicants who meet these qualifications will be issued the PFTT and will be able to teach in their approved area. In order to teach longer than the 2 years, they will need to work out the visa arrangement with INS and fulfill all the requirements of a provisional certificate. For questions or more information on this new certificate, please contact Kasey Ohrns at 602-542-4000.

UPDATED CERTIFICATION FORMS:

All certification forms have been updated to reflect any pertaining rule changes, including the IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card requirement. Please make sure you use the updated forms which can be found on our website at www.azed.gov/certification