



Literacy Endorsement

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Background Information on Literacy Endorsement for Grades K-5

Senate Bill (SB) 1572, which was signed into law in 2021, amends A.R.S. 15-501.01(C) and requires the State Board to establish a literacy endorsement as a requirement for all certificated teachers who provide literacy instruction in kindergarten through grade five. Teachers who are certified before August 1, 2025, must obtain the endorsement by August 1, 2028. Teachers certified after August 1, 2025, must obtain the endorsement within three years from the date of certificate issuance.

Who will be required to obtain the Literacy, K-5?

- Those responsible for teaching English language arts in a K-5 classroom will be required to hold a Literacy, K-5, Reading K-8, Reading K-12, or Reading Specialist K-12 endorsement. This includes early childhood, elementary, middle grades, or special education teachers who provide instruction in English language arts instruction in a kindergarten through grade five classroom.

When is this required?

- Those certified **on or before 8/1/2025** have until 8/1/2028 to obtain the Literacy, K-5 Endorsement
- Those certified **after 8/1/2025** will have 3 years from certificate issuance to obtain the Literacy, K-5 Endorsement.

What are the requirements?

Option A: Coursework and Foundations of Reading Exam

1. Completion of 6 semester hours of reading coursework, or the equivalent [ADE-approved training](#), to include 3 semester hours in the science of reading and 3 semester hours of reading instruction and intervention, including for students with dyslexia; **and**
2. A passing score on the [Foundations of Reading exam](#) (SA 190).

Option B: Verification for Coursework Waiver and Foundations of Reading Exam

1. LEA Verification that the teacher has provided literacy instruction in K-5 for three consecutive years and has demonstrated they have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading; **and**
2. A passing score on the [Foundations of Reading exam](#) (SA 190).

Option C: Verification for Coursework Waiver and Exam Waiver

1. LEA Verification that the teacher has provided literacy instruction in K-5 for three consecutive years and has demonstrated they have the knowledge and skills to effectively teach reading; **and**
2. LEA Verification that at least 90% of the educator's full academic year (FAY) students are proficient on the English language arts (ELA) portion of the statewide assessment over the last three consecutive academic years.

Where can I get the coursework or training?

- **If you are currently in an Arizona Board-approved preparation program for Elementary or Early Childhood, the training is already in your program.**
- Approved training is also listed in the [Approved Trainings tab](#). Trainings completed may be used to both qualify for the Literacy Endorsement as well as for renewal professional development hours.

I think I have the coursework already. What should I look for on my transcript?

- The course titles listed on the transcript must reflect 3 semester hours in the science of reading/phonics and 3 semester hours in reading diagnosis and interventions. A course description may be submitted if the course title does not clearly verify a focus in these areas.
- You may email the course information, including the prefix, to the ADE Certification Unit at Certification@azed.gov for feedback on whether your coursework may be accepted.

Where can I take the Foundations of Reading exam?

- Exam information can be found at the [Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments \(AEPA\)](#) site.
- Candidates who are Arizona residents and currently enrolled in an educator preparation program and incumbent teachers residing in Arizona who are seeking a Literacy K-5 endorsement will be eligible to receive a one-time fee waiver to take the Foundations of Reading assessment for free. You must have a valid Arizona mailing address (AZ P.O. Boxes are eligible) to qualify for this state-funded assessment fee waiver. The fee waiver will be automatically applied toward your assessment fee during the online registration process.

Will there be a deficiency on my certificate if I do not hold the Literacy, K-5 endorsement?

- No. The Literacy, K-5 endorsement is a credential that the District or School will need to require if you will be providing English language arts instruction. The endorsement is not an allowable deficiency that will “inactivate” a certificate.

What if I hold a Reading or Reading Specialist endorsement?

- You will not need to add the Literacy, K-5 endorsement if you hold a Reading K-8, Reading K-12, or Reading Specialist, K-12 endorsement.

What happens if I do not obtain the Literacy K-5 or the appropriate Reading endorsement within the specified timeframe?

- Under the Board of Education rules, you will not be considered appropriately certified for an assignment in which you are providing instruction in English language arts.