



# CERTIFICATION

## Certification Updates February 2025

Certification endorsements may be added to educator certificates to show specialization, expand the grade level the educator may teach, or both. On February 24, 2025, the State Board of Education (“Board”) approved multiple changes to the rules for certification endorsements. This document provides a summary of these changes.

### **General Rules for Endorsements**

The Board established the following general rules for endorsements:

- Provisional endorsements are valid for three years and are non-renewable. An individual shall not be issued the same Provisional endorsement more than once in a five-year period.
- **Unless otherwise indicated**, “teaching certificate” means a Standard Professional, Classroom-Based Standard, or International Teaching certificate.

### **New Endorsement Titles**

The titles of the Mathematics, Reading, and Elementary Foreign Language endorsements were updated as follows:

- The Mathematics, K-8 endorsement is now the “Mathematics **Specialist**, K-8” endorsement.
- The Reading K-8, 6-12, and K-12 endorsements are now the “Reading **Specialist**,” K-8, 6-12, and K-12 endorsements.
- The Elementary Foreign Language, K-8 endorsement is now the “Elementary **World** Language, K-8” endorsement.

The Department is updating the certification systems to reflect the new endorsement titles for new applicants and current endorsement holders. Therefore, stakeholders may see a different title for these endorsements on a paper certificate than what is in the online certification system.

### **Special Subject Endorsements**

Special subject endorsements qualify the holder to teach art, computer science, dance, dramatic arts, music, or physical education in preschool through grade 12. The rule for special subject endorsements was updated to allow the endorsements to be added to an Early Childhood Education, Birth-Grade 3 teaching certificate.

### **Requirements for Reading Specialist Endorsements**

The Board approved changes to the requirements for the Reading Specialist (previously titled “Reading”) endorsements. Below is a summary of the new requirements.

- **Prerequisite Certificate:** All Reading Specialist endorsements (K-8, 6-12, K-12) will require a valid Arizona early childhood, elementary, special education, middle grades, or secondary teaching certificate. The previous rules had different prerequisite certificate requirements depending on the grade range of the endorsement.
- **Teaching Experience (No Change):** Verification of three years of full-time teaching experience.

- **Reading Practicum Requirement (No Change):** Completion of reading practicum course(s) for the appropriate grade range(s).
- **Subject Knowledge Proficiency (Option A or B).** The previous rules required completion of 21-24 semester hours of specified reading courses (“Option A”) **or** meeting the AEPA Subject Knowledge: Reading Endorsement exam requirement(s) (“Option B”). The Board approved the following changes to the requirements under these options:
  - Both Option A and B will require three semester hours of college coursework **or** 45 clock hours of ADE-approved training in the science of reading instruction, including systematic phonics. Under Option A, the science of reading requirement will replace three semester hours in the theoretical and research foundations of language and literacy.
  - Both Option A and B will require three semester hours of college coursework **or** 45 clock hours of ADE-approved training in reading instruction, including assessments, instructional practices, and interventions to improve student reading proficiency for struggling readers, including students with the characteristics of dyslexia. Under Option A, the reading intervention requirement will replace three semester hours in reading assessment systems.
  - Under Option A, three semester hours in “leadership” will be replaced with three semester hours in the administration and supervision of a reading program for the appropriate grade level.

The Board approved a transition period allowing applicants to qualify for the Reading Specialist endorsements under the previous rules if their application is received **on or before February 24, 2026**. Please direct applicants to contact the ADE Certification Unit if they have questions.

### **Elementary World Language, K-8 Endorsement**

The Elementary World Language, K-8 endorsement may be added to an early childhood, elementary, middle grades, secondary, or special education teaching certificate to authorize the holder to teach a world language other than English in grades K-8. The endorsement requires three semester hours in the methods of teaching a second language at the elementary level and demonstration of proficiency in a world language other than English.

Under the revised rules, demonstration of proficiency in a world language requires passing the appropriate **AEPA/NES subject knowledge exam** or qualifying for a subject knowledge exam waiver. If an AEPA/NES subject knowledge exam in the world language is not offered, **one** of the following is required:

- Completion of 24 semester hours of courses in the language; **or**
- Verification of proficiency in a Native American language from a person, persons, or entity designated by the appropriate tribe; **or**
- A passing score on a Board-approved test of a foreign language. The Board has approved the following tests and passing scores to meet this requirement:
  - The American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) speaking and writing exams with a passing score of “Advanced Low.”
  - The Gallaudet University American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) with a passing score of 3+.
  - The Rochester Institute of Technology Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI: ASL) with a passing score of “Advanced.”

## **Cooperative Education, K-12 Endorsement**

The Cooperative Education, K-12 endorsement may be added to a Career and Technical Education certificate to authorize the holder to coordinate cooperative education programs. The Board approved a technical change to require a college course or ADE-CTE approved training in coordinating CTE cooperative education programs.

## **Contact Information**

You may view detailed information on requirements for certification endorsements on our website at <https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/forms-and-information/endorsements>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Education, Certification Unit at (602) 542-4367 or at <https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/educator-certification-contact-form>.