

Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for the Fifty States and Washington, D.C.

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An Inquiry to Ascertain Student Age Ranges for Public School Teacher Licensure

May 2009



R.C. Jones, S. Martin, and M. Crandall

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**School of Human Environmental Sciences
University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture
Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701**

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Key words:
birth-kindergarten teacher licensure
birth-age 8 teacher licensure



Teachers with birth through kindergarten licensure are prepared to meet the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive needs of young children. Specialized education in child development is essential for teachers in early childhood education. A license specific to the early-childhood age range supports high-quality classrooms, developmentally appropriate practices, and positive outcomes for children.



Birth Through Kindergarten Licensure Statements of Justification

- Professional preparation of teachers in child development or early childhood education is the main contributing factor in quality pre-k education (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education [AACTE], 2004).
- Appropriately educated teachers provide richer language and cognitive experiences. They tend to be more positive, sensitive, and responsive when interacting with children. These same quality teachers are also less authoritarian, punitive, and detached. As a result, children with appropriately educated teachers develop socially, emotionally, linguistically, and cognitively better (Barnett, 2003).
- Research shows that the educational achievement gap begins at birth (AACTE, 2004).
- A recommendation from the AACTE is to establish a certification of early childhood education that is separate from the traditional Elementary Education certification (AACTE, 2004).
- A study of teachers' professional preparation programs stated that preparation programs may not have adequately prepared teachers to teach at the pre-k level (Cochran-Smith & Zeichner, 2005).
- Policy should focus on emphasizing quality and appropriateness of professional preparation (Washington, 2008).

Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for the Fifty States and Washington, D.C.

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An Inquiry to Ascertain Student Age Ranges for Public School Teacher Licensure

R.C. Jones, S. Martin, and M. Crandall¹

Introduction

There is a need for birth through kindergarten (B-K) public school licensure in the state of Arkansas. In Arkansas, licensure for teachers of young children is for pre-kindergarten through fourth grade (P-4). Teachers who receive P-4 licenses are often less prepared to work with children under age six than with older children. A more appropriate license would be a B-K license. A teacher with B-K licensure would be prepared to meet the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive needs of young children. This document is an inquiry to ascertain student age ranges for public school teacher licensure in the fifty states and Washington, D.C.

Data Summary

A 2008 survey of public school teacher licensing agencies in the United States found that 30 states provided licensure for teachers of children beginning at birth (Table 3). Teacher licensure beginning at birth was available for 6 of the 16 states in the Southern Regional Education Board (Table 2). The only state that is contiguous to Arkansas that provides teacher licensure beginning at birth was Missouri (Table 4). All student age-range categories are reported for the 50 states and Washington, D.C. (Table 1).

¹R. Caudle Jones is a program associate, S. Martin is a professor and M. Crandall is an instructor for the School of Human Environmental Sciences at the Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Ark.

Table 1. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for Fifty States and Washington, D.C., June 2008

State	Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Alabama	Early Childhood Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
Alaska	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Arizona	Early Childhood Education	Birth- age 8
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
California	Early Childhood Generalist	ages 3-8
Colorado	Early Childhood Education	ages 0-8
Connecticut	Early Childhood	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Hawaii	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Idaho	Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (blended)	Birth-grade 3 (integrated regular education and special education)
Illinois	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Indiana	Preschool Generalist	infant to K (not including Kindergarten)
Iowa	Pre-K-K	Birth-grade 3
Kansas	Early Childhood Unified	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Maine	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)
Maryland	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Massachusetts	Early Education and Care License	Birth-K
Michigan	Endorsement (Pre-K-K) placed on Elementary (K-grade 5)	Pre-K-K
Minnesota	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Montana	Early Childhood Endorsement (Pre-K-K) added to Elementary Education (K-grade 8)	Pre-K-K
Nebraska	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Nevada	Early Childhood 0-K, Early Childhood 0-grade 2	0-K, and 0-grade 2
New Hampshire	Birth- age 8	Birth-age 8
New Jersey	Preschool to 3 Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
New Mexico	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
New York	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 2
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
North Dakota	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3

Table 1. (Continued) Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for Fifty States and Washington, D.C., June 2008

State	Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Ohio	Early Childhood	Pre-K-grade 3
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
Oregon	Birth-K	Birth-K
Pennsylvania	Early Childhood/Nursery	Pre-K-grade 3
Rhode Island	Early Childhood	Infant-grade 2
South Carolina	Early Childhood Certification	4 year old (K)-grade 3
South Dakota	Birth-Preschool, Birth-age 8 Early Childhood	Birth-Pre-K, and Birth-age 8
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4
Utah	Early Childhood	Pre-K-grade 3
Vermont	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Virginia	Early/ Primary	Pre-K-grade 3
Washington	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K
Wisconsin	Early Childhood Level	Birth-age 8
Wyoming	Early Childhood	Birth-age 5
Washington, D.C.	Early Childhood Education (ECE) license	Pre-K-grade 3

Table 2. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for States in the Southern Regional Education Board, June 2008

State	Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Alabama	Early Childhood Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Maryland	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
South Carolina	Early Childhood Certification	4 year old (K)-grade 3
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4
Virginia	Early/ Primary	Pre-K-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K

Table 3. States With Public School Teacher Licensure Beginning at Birth, June 2008

State	Title of License/ Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Arizona	Early Childhood Education	Birth-age 8
Colorado	Early Childhood Education	ages 0-8
Connecticut	Early Childhood	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Idaho	Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (blended)	Birth-grade 3 (integrated regular education and special education)
Illinois	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Indiana	Preschool Generalist	infant to K (not including Kindergarten)
Iowa	Pre-K-K	Birth-grade 3
Kansas	Early Childhood Unified	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Maine	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)
Massachusetts	Early Education and Care License	Birth-K
Minnesota	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Nebraska	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Nevada	Early Childhood 0-K, Early Childhood 0-grade 2	0-K, and 0-grade 2
New Hampshire	Birth- age 8	Birth-age 8
New Mexico	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
New York	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 2
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
North Dakota	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Oregon	Birth-K	Birth-K
Rhode Island	Early Childhood	Infant-grade 2
South Dakota	Birth-Preschool, Birth-age 8 Early Childhood	Birth-Pre-K, and Birth-age 8
Vermont	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K
Wisconsin	Early Childhood Level	Birth-age 8
Wyoming	Early Childhood	Birth-age 5

Table 4. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for States Contiguous to Arkansas, June 2008

State	Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4

Public School Licensing Agencies: Resources for Fifty States and Washington, D.C.

Each state provides public school licensure for qualifying teachers. Typically, the licensing agency is through the department of education for the individual state. Some states have a separate agency that issues the licenses.

Alabama: Alabama Department of Education,
Teacher Education and Certification
50 North Ripley Street,
P.O. Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36104

Alaska: Alaska Department of Education &
Early Development, Teacher Certification
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

Arizona: Arizona Department of Education,
Teacher Certification
P.O. Box 6490,
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6490

Arkansas: Office of Professional Licensure,
Arkansas Department of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Room 106-B or Room 107-B
Little Rock, AR 72201

California: California Commission on Teacher
Credentialing
P.O. Box 944270
Sacramento, CA 94244-9700

Colorado: Colorado Department of Education,
Educator Licensing Unit
State Office Building,
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203-1799

Connecticut: Connecticut State Department of
Education, Teacher Certification
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Delaware: Delaware Department of Education,
Educator Certification
John G. Townsend Building,
401 Federal Street, Suite #2
Dover, DE 19901-3639

Florida: Florida Department of Education,
Bureau of Educator Certification
Suite 201, Turlington Building
325 West Gaines Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

Georgia: Georgia Professional Standards
Commission
Two Peachtree Street, Suite 6000
Atlanta, GA 30303

Hawaii: Hawaii Teacher Standards Board
650 Iwilei Rd. #01
Honolulu, HI 96817

Idaho: Idaho Department of Education
650 West State Street
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

Illinois: Illinois Department of Education,
Division of Educator Certification
100 N. 1st Street
Springfield, IL 62777

Indiana: Indiana Department of Education,
Indiana Division of Professional Standards
Room 229, State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798

Iowa: Iowa Board of Educational Examiners
Grimes State Office Building
400 East 14th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

Kansas: Kansas State Department of Education,
Teacher Education and Licensure
120 SE 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1182

Kentucky: Education Professional
Standards Board
100 Airport Road, 3rd Floor
Frankfort, KY 40601

Louisiana: Louisiana Department of Education,
Office of Educator Support
Division of Certification and Preparation
P.O. Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

Maine: State of Maine Department of Education,
Certification Office
23 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

Maryland: Maryland State Department of
Education, Certification Branch
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

Massachusetts: Massachusetts Department of
Education, Licensure
350 Main Street
Malden, MA 02148-5023

Michigan: Michigan Department of Education
Office of Professional Preparation Services
608 W. Allegan Street
P.O. Box 30008
Lansing, MI 48909

Minnesota: Minnesota Department of Education,
Educator Licensing
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113

Mississippi: Mississippi Department of
Education, Office of Educator Licensure
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205

Missouri: Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
Educator Certification
P.O. Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Montana: Montana Office of Public Instruction,
Educator Licensure
P.O. Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

Nebraska: Nebraska Department of Education,
Educator Certificate
301 Centennial Mall South
P.O. Box 94987
Lincoln, NE 68509

Nevada: Nevada Department of Education,
Teacher Licensure
1820 E. Sahara, Suite 205
Las Vegas, NV 89104

New Hampshire: New Hampshire Department of
Education, Bureau of Credentialing
101 Pleasant St.,
Concord, NH 03301-3860

New Jersey: New Jersey Department of
Education, Office of Licensure and Credentials
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

New Mexico: New Mexico Public Education
Department, Licensure
300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501

New York: New York State Education
Department,
Office of Teacher Initiatives Certification
89 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12234

North Carolina: North Carolina Department of
Public Instruction, Licensure Section
6365 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-6365

North Dakota: North Dakota Educator Standards and Practice Board
2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 303
Bismarck, ND 58503-0583

Ohio: Ohio Department of Education,
Educator Licensure
25 South Front Street
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

Oklahoma: Oklahoma State
Department of Education
Professional Standards-Teacher Certification
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

Oregon: Oregon Department of Education,
Laws and Licensure
255 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97310-0203

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Department
of Education
Professional Standard and Practices Commission
9th Floor- 333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

Rhode Island: Rhode Island Department of
Elementary and Secondary Education
Office of Educator Quality and Certification
255 Westminster Street
Providence, RI 02903

South Carolina: South Carolina Department
of Education
Office of Educator Certification
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 500
Columbia, SC 29204

South Dakota: South Dakota Department
of Education
Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality
700 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Tennessee: Office of Teacher Licensure,
Tennessee Department of Education
4th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0377

Texas: Texas Educator Agency Educator
Certification and Standards
1701 North Congress Ave., WBT 5-100
Austin, TX 78701-1494

Utah: State of Utah Office of Education
Educator Quality and Licensing
250 East 500 South, P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake, UT 84114-4200

Vermont: Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

Virginia: Virginia Department of Education
Division of Teacher Educator and Licensure
P.O. Box 2120
Richmond, VA 23218

Washington: Washington Office of
Superintendent of Public Instruction
Professional Educator and Certification
Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

West Virginia: West Virginia Department
of Education
Teacher Certification
1900 Kanawha Boulevard
Charleston, WV 25305

Wisconsin: Wisconsin Department
of Public Instruction
Teacher Educator, Professional Development
and Licensing
125 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841
Madison, WI 53707-7841

Wyoming: Wyoming Professional Teacher
Standards Board
1920 Thomas Avenue, Suite 400
Cheyenne, WY 82002

Washington, D.C.: Office of Academic
Credentials and Standards
825 N. Capitol Street, NE, Sixth Floor,
Washington, D.C. 20002



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Notes

1. The information contained in this publication reflects the knowledge available at the time of the inquiry.
2. The publication was developed with an awareness of the dynamic state of the information. That is, the data collected are ever-changing.
3. Efforts were made to speak directly with knowledgeable representatives when Web site information needed clarification. Differences between Web site information and oral communication may have occurred due to ongoing data collection. Corrections will be noted when informed.



