



TEACHER AND ASSISTANT TEACHER QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN EARLY LEARNING CLASSROOMS



MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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Section I

EARLY LEARNING COLLABORATIVE (ELC) PROGRAM TEACHER AND ASSISTANT TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

The Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 requires that teachers and assistant teachers in any of the Early Learning Collaborative classrooms be qualified in the following manner:

TEACHER

A teacher shall possess a BACHELOR'S DEGREE in early childhood education, child development, or an equivalent field. A teacher may also possess a bachelor's degree in any field and have at least twelve (12) credit hours of coursework in early childhood education, child development, or an equivalent field approved by an institution granting a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, child development, or an equivalent field; or have a bachelor's degree in any field and have completed a specialized early childhood training program deemed equivalent by the State Department of Education to twelve (12) hours of approved coursework.

*If teachers are in a public-school setting, they will need to also follow the chart below.



GENERAL EDUCATION ELC PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Hold a Pre-K/K (153) License

OR

**Hold a K-3 (116) License or
Hold a K-4 (152) License**

AND

Complete twelve (12) early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

OR

Hold a K-6 (120) License

AND

Complete requirements to add N-1 (150) supplemental endorsement

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

12 early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

*Completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved early childhood education training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National Board Early Childhood Certification, Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program (122 Pre-K add on endorsement). MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is



explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.

ASSISTANT TEACHER

An assistant teacher in the Early Learning Collaborative Pre-K program shall possess an ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE in early childhood education, child development, or an equivalent field; or an associate's degree in any field and a Child Development Associate credential, a Montessori certification, or an equivalent certification.

GENERAL EDUCATION ELC PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Early Childhood Associate's Degree

OR

Associate's Degree

AND

12 early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Complete an early childhood training program**

OR

High School Diploma/GED AND
Verification of WorkKeys®
Scores***

AND

12 early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Completion of an early childhood training program**

*These hours can be included in the Associate's Degree or 60 College Credit Hours

**Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program. MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) requires assistant teachers to have a CDA or equivalent, at a minimum. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State



Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.



Section II

STATE INVESTED PRE-KINDERGARTEN (SIP) PROGRAM TEACHER AND ASSISTANT TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

General Education teachers in a public school Pre-K are required to follow one of the pathways listed below.

By August 1, 2022, 50% of teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.



GENERAL EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

**Hold a Pre-K/K (153)
License**

OR

**Hold a K-3 (116) License
or
Hold a K-4 (152) License**

AND

Complete twelve (12) early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

OR

Hold a K-6 (120) License

AND

Complete requirements to add N-1 (150) supplemental endorsement

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

12 early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

*Completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved early childhood education training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National Board Early Childhood Certification, Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program (122 Pre-K add on endorsement). MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is



explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

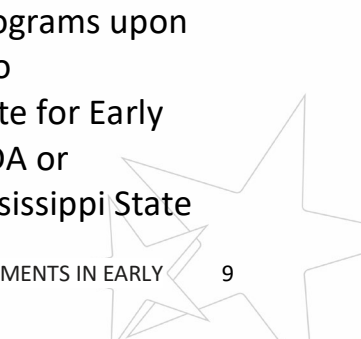
General Education and Special Education assistant teachers in a public school Pre-K are required to follow one of the pathways listed below.

By August 1, 2022, 50% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.

Early Childhood Associate's Degree	
OR	
Associate's Degree OR 60 College Credit Hours	AND
	12 early childhood college credit hours* OR Completion of an early childhood training program**
OR	
High School Diploma/GED AND Verification of WorkKeys® Scores***	AND
	12 early childhood college credit hours* OR Completion of an early childhood training program**

*These hours can be included in the Associate's Degree or 60 College Credit Hours

**Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program. MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) requires assistant teachers to have a CDA or equivalent, at a minimum. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State



Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.

*** Prior to 2017, assistant teachers would have met WorkKeys® requirements: a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, assistant teachers need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.



Section III

PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER AND ASSISTANT TEACHER REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

General Education teachers in a public school Pre-K are required to follow one of the pathways listed below.

By August 1, 2022, 50% of teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.



GENERAL EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

**Hold a Pre-K/K (153)
License**

OR

**Hold a K-3 (116) License
or
Hold a K-4 (152) License**

AND

Complete twelve (12) early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

OR

Hold a K-6 (120) License

AND

Complete requirements to add N-1 (150) supplemental endorsement

OR

Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement

OR

12 early childhood college credit hours*

OR

Complete an early childhood training program*

*Completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved early childhood education training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National Board Early Childhood Certification, Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program (122 Pre-K add on endorsement). MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is



explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.

SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Special Education teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below.

By August 1, 2022, 50% of special education pre-kindergarten teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of special education pre-kindergarten teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.

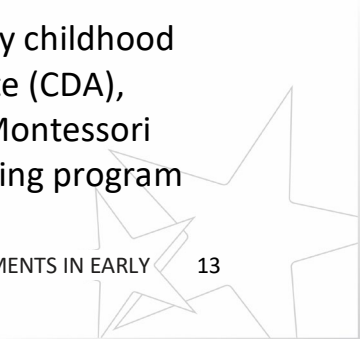
SPECIAL EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS

Hold Birth-K Special Education License (211)

OR

<p>Hold Mild to Moderate Disability K-12 (221) License</p>		<p>12 early childhood college credit hours*</p>
		OR
<p>Hold Severe Disability K-12 (222) License</p>	AND	<p>Attain a Passing Score on the MSBE Approved Licensure Assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement</p>
		OR
<p>Hold Mild to Moderate Disability K-8 (223) License</p>		<p>Complete an early childhood training program*</p>

*Completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved early childhood education training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National Board Early Childhood Certification, Director’s Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE’s intensive specialized early childhood training program

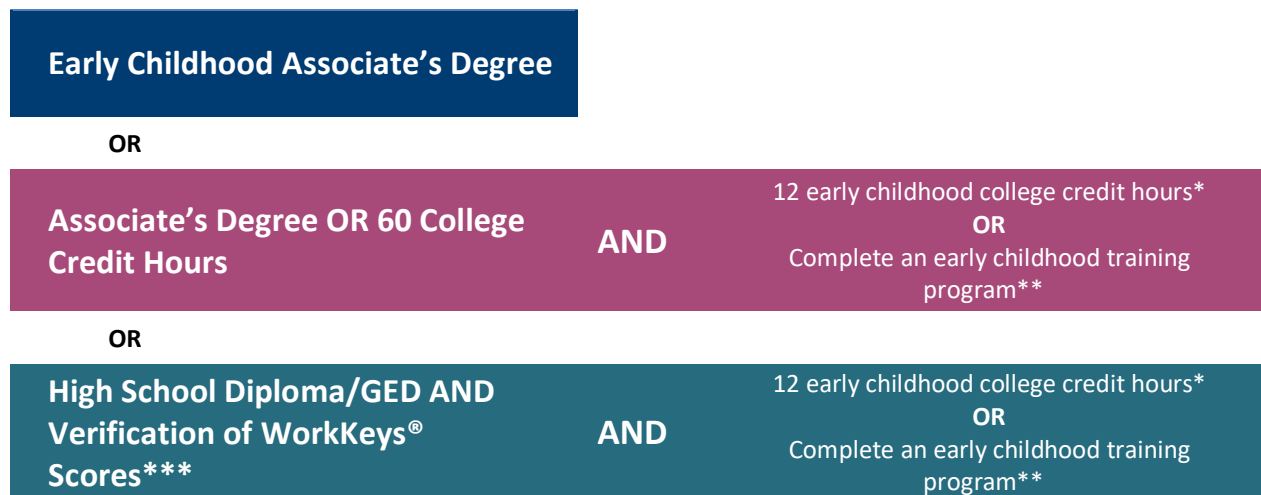


(122 Pre-K add on endorsement). MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in Mississippi classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12* document is located at <https://mdek12.org/licensure>. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure webpage at <https://mdek12.org/OEL>.

ASSISTANT TEACHERS

General Education and Special Education Assistant teachers in a public school Pre-K are required to follow one of the pathways listed below.

By August 1, 2022, 50% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2024, 100% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.



*These hours can be included in the Associate’s Degree or 60 College Credit Hours
 **Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director’s Credential, Montessori



Credential, and the MDE’s intensive specialized early childhood training program. MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) requires assistant teachers to have a CDA or equivalent, at a minimum. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three- and four-year old children in MS classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is explicitly stated and outlined in the official Licensure Guidelines K-12 document. To review the most accurate and up-to-date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure section of the MDE website.

***Prior to 2017, Teacher Assistants would have met WorkKeys® requirements: a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3;

OR

After 2017, Teacher Assistants need to meet the WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.



Section IV

CHILDCARE & HEAD START (ELC)

Classrooms participating in an Early Learning Collaborative shall follow the guidance in Section I of this document for the qualification requirements of teachers and assistant teachers.

Caveat

If an offsite entity manages staff, the staff will also fall under the employing entity's staff requirement guidance.

