

## Section I

### Early Learning Collaborative Teacher and Assistant Teacher Requirements

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

(b) 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 the 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.

(c) An assistant teacher 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. Public school assistant teachers in the voluntary prekindergarten program established by the Early Learning Collaborative Act of 2013 may be required by the State Department of Education to meet the definition of a highly qualified paraprofessional in addition to these requirements.

## Section II

### Public School Teacher and Assistant Teacher Requirements

#### Teachers

*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 Teachers in a public school pre-k are required to follow one of the pathways listed below in addition to the information above:

#### GENERAL EDUCATION 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**  
Completion of 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**  
Completion of 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](mailto: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 *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.

*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 Teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:**

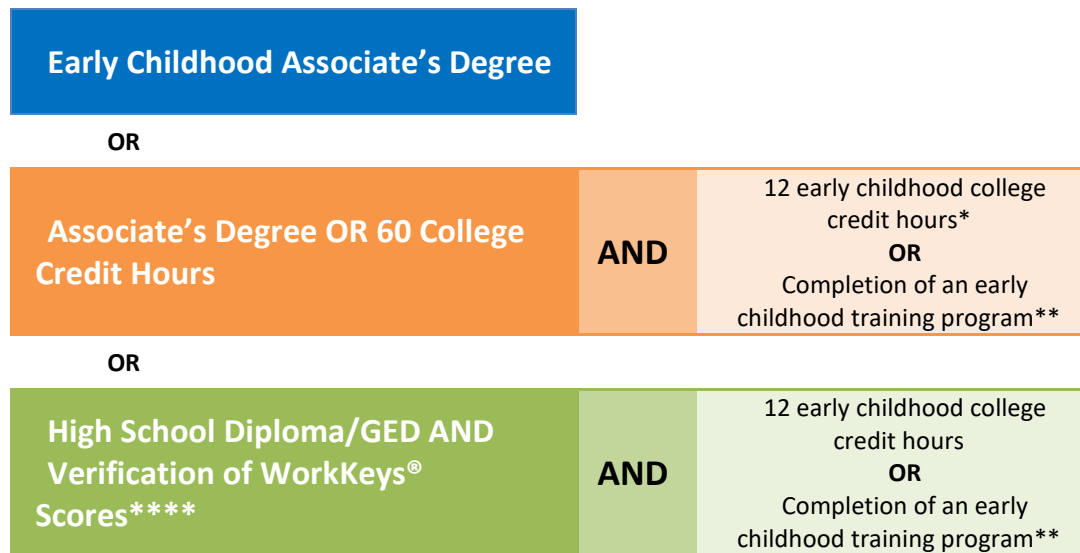
SPECIAL EDUCATION PRE-KINDERGARTEN CLASSROOMS		
<div style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <b>Hold Birth-K Special Education License (211)</b> </div>		
OR		
<b>Hold Mild to Moderate Disability K-12 (221) License</b> <b>Hold Severe Disability K-12 (222) License</b> <b>Hold Mild to Moderate Disability K-8 (223) License</b>	<b>AND</b>	12 early childhood college credit hours* OR Attain a passing score on the appropriate MSBE approved licensure assessment to add 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement OR Completion of a 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](mailto: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 *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.

## **Assistant Teachers**

*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.*

General Education and Special Education Assistant teachers in a public school pre-k are required to follow one of the pathways listed 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](mailto: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: (1) 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 III**

### **CHILD CARE & HEAD START**

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.

\*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. MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to [earlychildhood@mdek12.org](mailto: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 *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.

#### **Caveat**

If an offsite entity manages staff, the staff will fall under the employing entities staff requirement guidance.