

State K-3 Policies

Does the state have an early learning endorsement or license?

September 2020

At least 35 states plus Washington, D.C., have multiple credentials for various grade spans covering the early years and grades. The most common are birth through grade three, preschool through grade three and elementary/kindergarten through grade six; several also include special education. Five states specify only a birth through grade three credential, along with four that specify only a preschool through grade three credential. Several other credentials exist but are less frequent.

The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

To view other data points, click [here](#).

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE HAVE AN EARLY LEARNING ENDORSEMENT OR LICENSE?	CITATION
Alabama	Certificates: early childhood education (P-3), elementary education (K-6 or K-9), early childhood special education (P-3), collaborative teacher (K-6), or elementary multiple abilities (K-6). Early childhood development (Birth-Age 4) knowledge is included in early childhood candidate preparation.	Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-2-.05 Ala. Admin. Code 290-3-3-04.01
Alaska	Certificates: early childhood education associate I-II.	Alaska Admin. Code tit. 4, § 12.390
Arizona	Endorsements: early childhood education and special education (Birth through age 8/grade 3) and elementary education (K-8).	Ariz. Admin. Code R7-2-615
Arkansas	Certificate: pre-kindergarten to fourth grade. License: elementary education (K-6).	Code Ark. R. 005.24.1-11

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California	Credential: early childhood education (ages/grades unspecified).	Cal. Educ. Code § 44265
Colorado	Endorsements: early childhood education (Ages Birth-8), early childhood special education (Ages Birth-8) and elementary education (K-6).	1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-101:4.01 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-101:4:02 1 Colo. Code Regs. § 301-101.5.09
Connecticut	Certificates: early childhood education (Birth-age 8) and elementary education (P-6).	Conn. Agencies Regs. 10-145d-429 Conn. Agencies Regs. 10-145d-434
Delaware	Certificates: early childhood (B-grade 2), early childhood exceptional children special education (B-grade 2) and elementary (K-6).	Code Del. Regs. 14 1520 Code Del. Regs. 14 1521 Code Del. Regs. 14 1570
District of Columbia	Credentials: early childhood (Pre-K-3), early childhood Montessori (Pre-K-3), early childhood special education (Pre-K-3) and elementary (1-6).	D.C. Mun. Regs. Subt. 5-A, § 1602
Florida	Certificates: preschool education (Brth-Age 4), pre-kindergarten/primary education (Age 3-Grade 3) and elementary (K-6).	Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 6A-4.0141 Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 6A-4.0142 Fla. Admin. Code Ann. r. 6A-4.0151
Georgia	Endorsements: educator preparation rules include separate content standards for approving endorsement programs that prepare individuals to work and teach children from birth through kindergarten and from grades P-5.	Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-3-.13 Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 505-3-.14
Hawaii	Not specified in statute or regulation.	
Idaho	Endorsement: the blended early childhood education/early childhood special education (Birth-Grade 3).	Idaho Admin. Code r 08.02.02.022

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Illinois	Endorsement: early childhood education (Birth-2nd grade).	Ill. Admin. Code tit. 23, § 25.96 Ill. Admin. Code tit. 23, § Subt. A, Ch. I, Subt. B, Pt. 26
Indiana	License: Early childhood education (pre-K to grade 3) and K-6.	511 Ind. Admin. Code 10.1-3-6 Ind. Code Ann. § 20-28-4-4
Iowa	Endorsements: pre-K-grade 3 teacher (regular/special education), birth-grade 3 inclusive settings, K-6 elementary teacher and pre-K to K teacher.	Iowa Board of Educational Examiners Endorsements List
Kansas	Licenses: birth-K, birth-3rd grade, P-3, K-6 and P-12.	Kan. Admin. Regs. 91-1-102
Kentucky	Certificate: interdisciplinary early childhood education (birth to entry into primary), includes special education.	16 Ky. Admin. Regs. 2:040
Louisiana	Certificates: birth-K, P-3, 1-5 and special education 1-5.	La. Admin Code. tit. 28, Pt XLV, 709 La. Admin Code. tit. 28, Pt XLV, 743
Maine	Endorsements: early elementary teacher (K-3), elementary teacher (K-8), K-12, early childhood teacher (Birth-5) and Special Education.	Code Me. R. tit. 05-071 Ch. 115, § 2.1 Code Me. R. tit. 05-071 Ch. 115, § 2.2
Maryland	Certification: early childhood education (Pre-K to 3); elementary education (1-6).	Md. Code Regs. 13A.12.02.03 Md. Code Regs. 13A.12.02.25 Md. Code Regs. 13A.12.03.05 Md. Code Regs. 13A.12.03.06

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Massachusetts	Licenses: early childhood (pre-K-2), teacher of students with moderate disabilities (pre-K-8) and elementary (1-6).	603 Mass. Code Regs. 7.04
Michigan	Endorsements: early childhood and early childhood special education. Certificate: elementary level teaching.	Mich. Admin. Code R 340.1795 Mich. Admin. Code R 380.1531
Minnesota	Licenses: early childhood education (Birth-3rd grade), special education early childhood (Birth-age 6) and elementary education (K-6).	Minn. R. 8710.3000 Minn. R. 8710.3200 Minn. R. 8710.5500
Mississippi	Endorsements: child development (Pre-K-K) and elementary education (K-6).	Source
Missouri	Certificates: early childhood education (Birth-Grade 3) and teacher of elementary education (1-6).	5 Mo. Code Regs. Ann. 20-400.510 5 Mo. Code Regs. Ann. 20-400.520
Montana	Endorsements: early childhood (age 3 through grade 3) and elementary education (K-grade 8).	MT ADC 10.57.412
Nebraska	Endorsements: early childhood education (Pre-K-third grade), early childhood inclusive (birth-grade 3).	92 Neb. Admin. Code Ch. 24,006
Nevada	Licenses: early childhood (birth-grade 2) and elementary (K-grade 8).	Nev. Admin. Code 391.089 Nev. Admin. Code 391.090
New Hampshire	Certificate: elementary education (K-6 and K-8).	N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 507.11
New Jersey	Endorsements: preschool-third grade and elementary (K-6).	N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:9B-9.3
New Mexico	License: Pre-K-12.	N.M. Admin. Code 6.61.5

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New York	License: pre-K-6 licensure; includes a special focus on P-3 grades which shall include college-level study in child development among other areas.	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 80-2.12
North Carolina	Licenses: pre-kindergarten (Birth-K) and elementary license (K-6).	16 N.C. Admin. Code 6C.0304
North Dakota	Endorsements: pre-K and K, K/1-8, early childhood education (birth-grade 3), early childhood special education(birth-grade 3).	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-18-02 N.D. Admin. Code 67.1-02-03-09
Ohio	Licenses: early childhood (P-3), primary (P-5), multi-age (P-12), early childhood intervention specialist (P-3) and primary intervention specialist (P-5).	Ohio Admin. Code 3301-24-05
Oklahoma	License and certification: early childhood education (Pre-K-3rd grade).	Okla. Admin. Code 210:20-9-172(4)
Oregon	Endorsement: early childhood education (P-3).	Or. Admin. R. 584-225-0070
Pennsylvania	Certificates: early childhood (P-4), special education early childhood (P-4) and special education (P-8).	22 Pa. Code § 49.85 24 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. § 12-1202.1
Rhode Island	Certificates: early childhood education (P-2), early childhood special education (B-2), early childhood bilingual and dual language education (P-2), early childhood speakers of other languages (P-2), elementary (1-6) and elementary special education (1-6).	R.I. Code R. 20-20-1.9
South Carolina	Certificates: early childhood education (P-3), elementary education (2-6), Montessori (Early Childhood age 3-5, grades 1-3 and grades 4-6), Read to Succeed endorsements required for professional certification of early childhood, elementary, special education and Montessori.	State Board of Education Regulation 43-62

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South Dakota	Endorsements: early childhood (birth-grade 3).	S.D. Admin. R. 24:28:14:04 S.D. Admin. R. 24:28:19:01 S.D. Admin. R. 24:28:19:10 S.D. Admin. R. 24:53:07:02
Tennessee	Endorsements: P-3, P-K, K-5 and K-6.	Educator Licensure & Preparation Operating Procedures
Texas	Certificate: early childhood (P-3).	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 21.0489
Utah	Licenses: early childhood (K-3), elementary (K-6 and 1-8), special education (K-12+) and preschool special education (Birth-Age 5).	Utah Admin. Code R277-504-4 Utah Admin. Code R277-504-6
Vermont	Endorsements: Early Childhood Education (Birth-Pre-K, Pre-K-3rd grade or Birth-3rd grade) and early childhood special educator (Birth-Age 6).	7-1 Vt. Code R. § 13:5440
Virginia	Endorsements: early/primary education (PreK-3 or PreK-6), elementary education and special education early childhood.	8 Va. Admin. Code 20- 23-120 8 Va. Admin. Code 20- 23-140
Washington	Endorsements: early childhood education (Birth-grade 3) and elementary (K-8).	Wash. Admin. Code 181-82-201
West Virginia	Licenses: early education (P-K), early childhood (K-4) and elementary education (K-6).	W. Va. Code R. 126-136- 11
Wisconsin	Licenses: early childhood (birth-age 8), elementary and middle school (K-9), Pre-K-12 and K-12 cross-categorical special education.	Wis. Adm. Code EAB 34.27

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Wyoming	Endorsements: early childhood (birth-age 5); early childhood special education (birth-age 5); early childhood (birth-age 8/grade 3)and elementary (K-6).	Professional Teaching Standards Board (Source)