



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

BRIAN J. WHISTON
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 24, 2018
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Brian J. Whiston, Chairman 
SUBJECT: Presentation of the Revised Teacher Certification Structure

For over three years, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in collaboration with Michigan's stakeholders, have been working to revise Michigan's teacher certification structure and improve the preparation of the educator workforce in Michigan. This is in direct alignment with the MDE's Strategic Plan for becoming a Top Ten Education State within Ten Years.

This collaboration has led to the design of a structure that places students at the heart of the system. A key goal of this structure is deeper preparation of teachers to meet the unique learning needs of children at each grade level, particularly in early literacy. Attachment A is a simplified graphic that depicts the revised certification structure. The structure includes: focused grade bands to provide new teachers with specialized knowledge about the students and content they will teach; defined clinical experiences and foundational coursework for each grade band; unique preparation for instructing middle level learners; and enhanced content knowledge preparation for middle school teachers to award high school credit.

The department solicited feedback from educators across the state at all levels in 2017. We received over 3,000 surveys, including nearly 10,000 comments, that were reviewed by the stakeholder team. Additionally, feedback and support was received from Michigan education organizations along with important considerations for implementation. The overall response was positive, and refinements were made to help address some of the concerns expressed in that feedback.

Additional collaboration will be essential for successful implementation. Future requests for feedback will focus on: considerations for small and rural districts; the appropriate placement of incoming and current staff; improved pathways for teachers to add endorsements; and standards and guidance on educator preparation coursework, mentoring, and clinical experiences. The department intends to roll out

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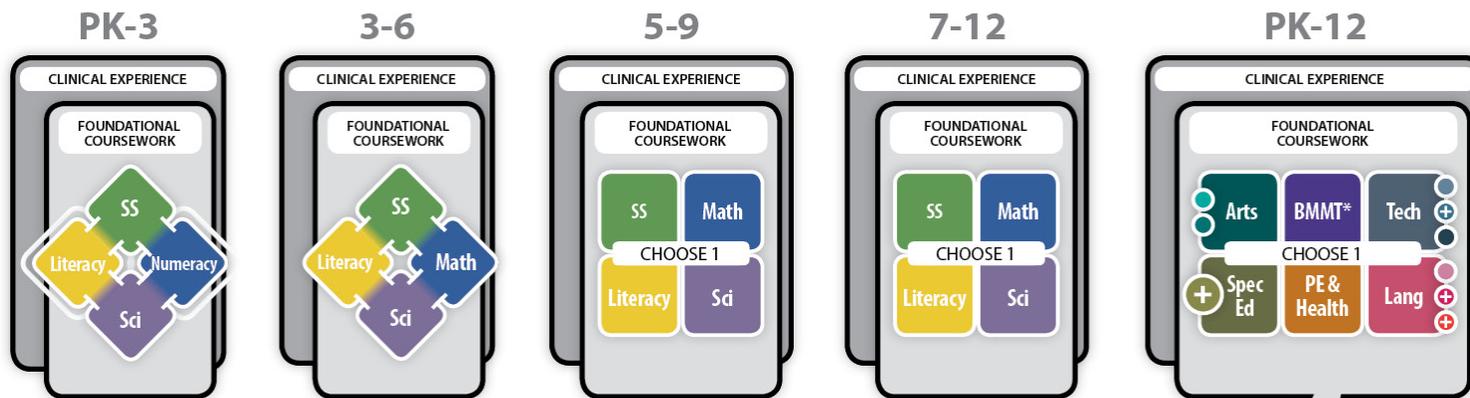
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the certification structure in tiers, beginning with elementary grade bands followed by middle and high school content areas. The department will revise PK-12 endorsement program standards as appropriate. The first teachers to enter the field under the new certification structure are expected to exit traditional teacher preparation programs in fall 2025.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION RESTRUCTURE DIAGRAM

Last Updated 2-5-18

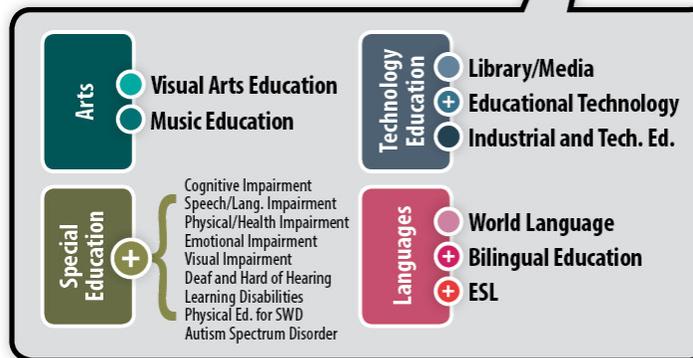


*See CTE note below

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

-  **Social-Emotional Competence**
-  **Early and Ongoing Clinical Experiences**
-  **Educational Technology**
-  **Interaction with Special Populations of Students**
-  **Needs of Diverse Learners and Cultural Competence**
-  **Emphasis on Content-Specific Pedagogy**
-  **Learner-Centered Supports**
-  **Assessment Literacy**

 **Indicates a preparation program that must be paired with core content area**



 ***BMMT: Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology**

***9-12** NOTE: Career and Technical Education (CTE) endorsements will remain valid for grades 9-12 and Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) codes will not change.