

Revised Certification Structure

For over three years, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), in collaboration with Michigan's stakeholders, has 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. Attached 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.

Overview

There are 5 grade bands:

- Prekindergarten to Grade 3
- Grades 3 through 6
- Grades 5 through 9
- Grades 7 through 12
- Prekindergarten (PK)-12

The preparation for each of these grade bands includes content area coursework, foundational coursework, and field experiences appropriate to the grade range. Although the coursework, foundational coursework, and field experiences will vary with each grade band and subject area, each will include learner-centered supports, including strategies to teach deeper learning to all students, and differentiated supports for intervention and tiered instruction. Educator preparation program standards will guide the construction of coursework and field experiences.

Grades PK-3

The educator preparing to teach grades PK-3 will receive integrated coursework that is heavily focused on literacy and mathematics instruction, and also includes coursework in teaching science and social studies. Note that on our graphic, the diamonds symbolizing the different content areas overlap each other, but English language arts and mathematics are larger in size. The standards for the PK-3 program will include integration and instruction to meet the needs of the whole child leading to a well-rounded education. Foundational and content area coursework will be driven by program standards that include developmentally appropriate instructional practices for students in grades PK-3 with an emphasis on learner-centered supports.

This educator would be prepared to teach literacy, mathematics, science, and/or social studies to students in grades PK-3 in a self-contained classroom or departmentalized setting. Educators can add areas of specialization (e.g., special education, English as a second language, mathematics, music) to their certificates along with the PK-3 grade band.

Grades 3-6

The educator preparing to teach grades 3-6 will receive integrated coursework that is focused equally on literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies. Thus, while they still overlap, the diamonds symbolizing each content area are roughly the same size. Foundational and content area coursework will be driven by standards that include developmentally appropriate instructional practices for students in grades 3-6 with an emphasis on learner-centered supports.

Just like for the PK-3 band, educators can add areas of specialization (e.g., special education, English as a Second Language, mathematics, visual arts). This educator would thus be prepared to teach literacy, mathematics, science, and/or social studies to students in grades 3-6 in a self-contained classroom or departmentalized setting.

Grades 5-9

The educator preparing to teach grades 5-9 will receive coursework that focuses on at least one of the following content areas: English or language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. To represent this, we turned the diamonds onto their sides as squares representing the four base content areas of preparation. In addition, the stakeholder committee recommended candidates choose either a second content area from this list or an area of specialization (e.g., English as a second language, visual arts, educational technology). As in other grade bands, foundational and content area coursework will be driven by standards that include developmentally appropriate instructional practices to meet the unique social-emotional needs for students in grades 5-9 with an emphasis on learner-centered supports.

This educator would be prepared to teach students of these grades in their chosen content areas of study in a departmentalized setting.

Grades 7-12

Similar to the grades 5-9 band, the educator preparing to teach grades 7-12 will receive coursework that focuses on one of the following content areas: English or language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies. In addition, the stakeholder committee recommended candidates choose a second area of specialization (e.g., English as a second language, visual arts, biology, or economics). In some cases, this may be an area of specialization related to their first content area choice, for example, science, and then biology. As before, foundational and content area coursework will be driven by standards that include developmentally appropriate instructional practices for students in grades 7-12 with an emphasis on learner-centered supports, which includes deeper learning and differentiated instruction.

This educator would be prepared to teach students of these grades in the content area of study in a departmentalized setting.

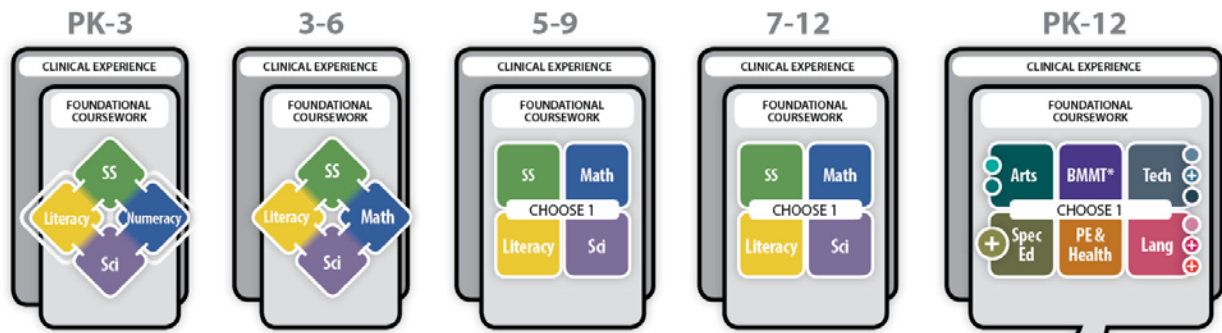
Grades PK-12

The educator preparing for grades PK-12 will receive coursework that focuses on a content area or student population. The educator may choose from visual arts, music, world language, library media, bilingual education, English as a second language, special education, or health/physical education. Candidates selecting special education, English as a second language, or bilingual education must also choose a content area of specialization (e.g., lower elementary, English-language arts, science, biology, or economics). Foundational and content area coursework will be driven by standards that include appropriate instructional practices for students in grades PK-12

with an emphasis on learner-centered supports, including deeper learning and differentiated instruction.

This educator would thus be prepared to teach grades PK-12 in their chosen content area or to their specialized student population in a departmentalized setting.


TEACHER CERTIFICATION RESTRUCTURE DIAGRAM Last Updated 2-5-18



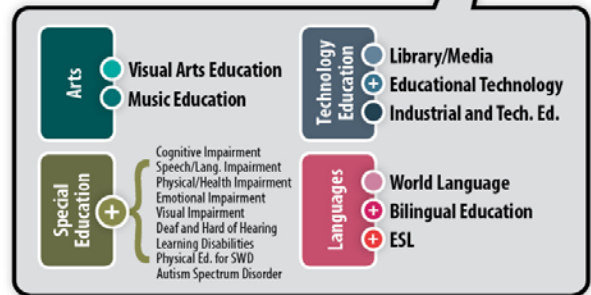
*See CTE note below

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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

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

*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.



 *BMMT: Business, Management, Marketing, and Technology