

5-1-2009

# Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for the Fifty States and Washington, D.C.: An Inquiry to Ascertain Student Age Ranges for Public School Teacher Licensure May 2009

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## Recommended Citation

Jones, R. Caudle; Martin, S.; and Crandall, M., "Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for the Fifty States and Washington, D.C.: An Inquiry to Ascertain Student Age Ranges for Public School Teacher Licensure May 2009" (2009). *Research Reports and Research Bulletins*. 13.

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ARKANSAS AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

Division of Agriculture

University of Arkansas System

May 2009

Research Report 986

This publication is available on the Internet at <http://arkansasagnews.uark.edu/1356.htm>

Additional printed copies of this publication can be obtained free of charge from  
Communication Services, 110 Agriculture Building, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Technical editing and cover design by Gail Halleck

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Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture, Fayetteville.  
Milo J. Shult, Vice President for Agriculture; Mark J. Cochran, AAES Director and Associate Vice President for Agriculture-Research.  
PMC500QX7.2. The University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture follows a nondiscriminatory policy in programs and employment.  
ISSN:1539-5944 CODEN:AKABA7

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## Acknowledgments

Acknowledgements are extended to all who have participated in providing information.



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**Key words:**  
birth-kindergarten teacher licensure  
birth-age 8 teacher licensure



*Teachers with birth through kindergarten licensure are prepared to meet the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive needs of young children. Specialized education in child development is essential for teachers in early childhood education. A license specific to the early-childhood age range supports high-quality classrooms, developmentally appropriate practices, and positive outcomes for children.*



## **Birth Through Kindergarten Licensure Statements of Justification**

- Professional preparation of teachers in child development or early childhood education is the main contributing factor in quality pre-k education (American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education [AACTE], 2004).
- Appropriately educated teachers provide richer language and cognitive experiences. They tend to be more positive, sensitive, and responsive when interacting with children. These same quality teachers are also less authoritarian, punitive, and detached. As a result, children with appropriately educated teachers develop socially, emotionally, linguistically, and cognitively better (Barnett, 2003).
- Research shows that the educational achievement gap begins at birth (AACTE, 2004).
- A recommendation from the AACTE is to establish a certification of early childhood education that is separate from the traditional Elementary Education certification (AACTE, 2004).
- A study of teachers' professional preparation programs stated that preparation programs may not have adequately prepared teachers to teach at the pre-k level (Cochran-Smith & Zeichner, 2005).
- Policy should focus on emphasizing quality and appropriateness of professional preparation (Washington, 2008).

# Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for the Fifty States and Washington, D.C.



## *An Inquiry to Ascertain Student Age Ranges for Public School Teacher Licensure*

*R.C. Jones, S. Martin, and M. Crandall<sup>1</sup>*

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### Introduction

There is a need for birth through kindergarten (B-K) public school licensure in the state of Arkansas. In Arkansas, licensure for teachers of young children is for pre-kindergarten through fourth grade (P-4). Teachers who receive P-4 licenses are often less prepared to work with children under age six than with older children. A more appropriate license would be a B-K license. A teacher with B-K licensure would be prepared to meet the emotional, social, physical, and cognitive needs of young children. This document is an inquiry to ascertain student age ranges for public school teacher licensure in the fifty states and Washington, D.C.

### Data Summary

A 2008 survey of public school teacher licensing agencies in the United States found that 30 states provided licensure for teachers of children beginning at birth (Table 3). Teacher licensure beginning at birth was available for 6 of the 16 states in the Southern Regional Education Board (Table 2). The only state that is contiguous to Arkansas that provides teacher licensure beginning at birth was Missouri (Table 4). All student age-range categories are reported for the 50 states and Washington, D.C. (Table 1).

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Table 1. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for Fifty States and Washington, D.C., June 2008

State	Title of License or Certificate/Endorsement	Age Range
Alabama	Early Childhood Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
Alaska	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Arizona	Early Childhood Education	Birth- age 8
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
California	Early Childhood Generalist	ages 3-8
Colorado	Early Childhood Education	ages 0-8
Connecticut	Early Childhood	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Hawaii	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Idaho	Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (blended)	Birth-grade 3 (integrated regular education and special education)
Illinois	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Indiana	Preschool Generalist	infant to K (not including Kindergarten)
Iowa	Pre-K-K	Birth-grade 3
Kansas	Early Childhood Unified	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Maine	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)
Maryland	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Massachusetts	Early Education and Care License	Birth-K
Michigan	Endorsement (Pre-K-K) placed on Elementary (K-grade 5)	Pre-K-K
Minnesota	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Montana	Early Childhood Endorsement (Pre-K-K) added to Elementary Education (K-grade 8)	Pre-K-K
Nebraska	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Nevada	Early Childhood 0-K, Early Childhood 0-grade 2	0-K, and 0-grade 2
New Hampshire	Birth- age 8	Birth-age 8
New Jersey	Preschool to 3 Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
New Mexico	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
New York	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 2
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
North Dakota	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3

**Table 1. (Continued) Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for Fifty States and Washington, D.C., June 2008**

<b>State</b>	<b>Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement</b>	<b>Age Range</b>
Ohio	Early Childhood	Pre-K-grade 3
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
Oregon	Birth-K	Birth-K
Pennsylvania	Early Childhood/Nursery	Pre-K-grade 3
Rhode Island	Early Childhood	Infant-grade 2
South Carolina	Early Childhood Certification	4 year old (K)-grade 3
South Dakota	Birth-Pre-school, Birth-age 8 Early Childhood	Birth-Pre-K, and Birth-age 8
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4
Utah	Early Childhood	Pre-K-grade 3
Vermont	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Virginia	Early/ Primary	Pre-K-grade 3
Washington	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K
Wisconsin	Early Childhood Level	Birth-age 8
Wyoming	Early Childhood	Birth-age 5
Washington, D.C.	Early Childhood Education (ECE) license	Pre-K-grade 3

**Table 2. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for States in the Southern Regional Education Board, June 2008**

State	Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement	Age Range
Alabama	Early Childhood Certificate	Pre-K-grade 3
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Maryland	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
South Carolina	Early Childhood Certification	4 year old (K)-grade 3
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4
Virginia	Early/ Primary	Pre-K-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K

**Table 3. States With Public School Teacher Licensure Beginning at Birth, June 2008**

<b>State</b>	<b>Title of License/ Certificate/ Endorsement</b>	<b>Age Range</b>
Arizona	Early Childhood Education	Birth-age 8
Colorado	Early Childhood Education	ages 0-8
Connecticut	Early Childhood	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Delaware	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 2
Florida	Preschool Education	Birth-age 4
Georgia	Birth through Age 5 Certificate	Birth through age 5
Idaho	Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education (blended)	Birth-grade 3 (integrated regular education and special education)
Illinois	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Indiana	Preschool Generalist	infant to K (not including Kindergarten)
Iowa	Pre-K-K	Birth-grade 3
Kansas	Early Childhood Unified	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
Kentucky	Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	Birth-Primary (integrated regular education and special education)
Maine	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)	Birth-age 5 (not including Kindergarten)
Massachusetts	Early Education and Care License	Birth-K
Minnesota	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Nebraska	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Nevada	Early Childhood 0-K, Early Childhood 0-grade 2	0-K, and 0-grade 2
New Hampshire	Birth- age 8	Birth-age 8
New Mexico	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
New York	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 2
North Carolina	Birth-K License	Birth-K (integrated regular education and special education)
North Dakota	Early Childhood	Birth-grade 3
Oregon	Birth-K	Birth-K
Rhode Island	Early Childhood	Infant-grade 2
South Dakota	Birth-Pre-school, Birth-age 8 Early Childhood	Birth-Pre-K, and Birth-age 8
Vermont	Early Childhood Education	Birth-grade 3
West Virginia	Pre-school Education	Birth-Pre-K
Wisconsin	Early Childhood Level	Birth-age 8
Wyoming	Early Childhood	Birth-age 5

**Table 4. Early Childhood Public School Teacher Licensure for States Contiguous to Arkansas, June 2008**

<b>State</b>	<b>Title of License or Certificate/ Endorsement</b>	<b>Age Range</b>
Arkansas	Early Childhood Education	Pre-K-grade 4
Louisiana	Early Childhood	age 4-grade 3
Mississippi	Child Development License	Pre-K-K
Missouri	Early Childhood Certificate	Birth-grade 3
Oklahoma	Pre-K Certification	Nursery-grade 3
Tennessee	Early Development and Learning	Pre-K-K
Texas	Early Childhood (EC) Generalist	Pre-K-grade 4

## Public School Licensing Agencies: Resources for Fifty States and Washington, D.C.

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Each state provides public school licensure for qualifying teachers. Typically, the licensing agency is through the department of education for the individual state. Some states have a separate agency that issues the licenses.

**Alabama:** Alabama Department of Education,  
Teacher Education and Certification  
50 North Ripley Street,  
P.O. Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36104

**Alaska:** Alaska Department of Education &  
Early Development, Teacher Certification  
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, AK 99811-0500

**Arizona:** Arizona Department of Education,  
Teacher Certification  
P.O. Box 6490,  
Phoenix, AZ 85005-6490

**Arkansas:** Office of Professional Licensure,  
Arkansas Department of Education  
Four Capitol Mall  
Room 106-B or Room 107-B  
Little Rock, AR 72201

**California:** California Commission on Teacher  
Credentialing  
P.O. Box 944270  
Sacramento, CA 94244-9700

**Colorado:** Colorado Department of Education,  
Educator Licensing Unit  
State Office Building,  
201 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203-1799

**Connecticut:** Connecticut State Department of  
Education, Teacher Certification  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Delaware:** Delaware Department of Education,  
Educator Certification  
John G. Townsend Building,  
401 Federal Street, Suite #2  
Dover, DE 19901-3639

**Florida:** Florida Department of Education,  
Bureau of Educator Certification  
Suite 201, Turlington Building  
325 West Gaines Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400

**Georgia:** Georgia Professional Standards  
Commission  
Two Peachtree Street, Suite 6000  
Atlanta, GA 30303

**Hawaii:** Hawaii Teacher Standards Board  
650 Iwilei Rd. #01  
Honolulu, HI 96817

**Idaho:** Idaho Department of Education  
650 West State Street  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027

**Illinois:** Illinois Department of Education,  
Division of Educator Certification  
100 N. 1st Street  
Springfield, IL 62777

**Indiana:** Indiana Department of Education,  
Indiana Division of Professional Standards  
Room 229, State House  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2798

**Iowa:** Iowa Board of Educational Examiners  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 East 14th St.  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

**Kansas:** Kansas State Department of Education,  
Teacher Education and Licensure  
120 SE 10th Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66612-1182

**Kentucky:** Education Professional  
Standards Board  
100 Airport Road, 3rd Floor  
Frankfort, KY 40601

**Louisiana:** Louisiana Department of Education,  
Office of Educator Support  
Division of Certification and Preparation  
P.O. Box 94064  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9064

**Maine:** State of Maine Department of Education,  
Certification Office  
23 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0023

**Maryland:** Maryland State Department of  
Education, Certification Branch  
200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

**Massachusetts:** Massachusetts Department of  
Education, Licensure  
350 Main Street  
Malden, MA 02148-5023

**Michigan:** Michigan Department of Education  
Office of Professional Preparation Services  
608 W. Allegan Street  
P.O. Box 30008  
Lansing, MI 48909

**Minnesota:** Minnesota Department of Education,  
Educator Licensure  
1500 Highway 36 West  
Roseville, MN 55113

**Mississippi:** Mississippi Department of  
Education, Office of Educator Licensure  
P.O. Box 771  
Jackson, MS 39205

**Missouri:** Missouri Department of Elementary  
and Secondary Education  
Educator Certification  
P.O. Box 480  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

**Montana:** Montana Office of Public Instruction,  
Educator Licensure  
P.O. Box 202501  
Helena, MT 59620-2501

**Nebraska:** Nebraska Department of Education,  
Educator Certificate  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509

**Nevada:** Nevada Department of Education,  
Teacher Licensure  
1820 E. Sahara, Suite 205  
Las Vegas, NV 89104

**New Hampshire:** New Hampshire Department of  
Education, Bureau of Credentialing  
101 Pleasant St.,  
Concord, NH 03301-3860

**New Jersey:** New Jersey Department of  
Education, Office of Licensure and Credentials  
P.O. Box 500  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0500

**New Mexico:** New Mexico Public Education  
Department, Licensure  
300 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

**New York:** New York State Education  
Department,  
Office of Teacher Initiatives Certification  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, NY 12234

**North Carolina:** North Carolina Department of  
Public Instruction, Licensure Section  
6365 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-6365

**North Dakota:** North Dakota Educator Standards and Practice Board  
2718 Gateway Avenue, Suite 303  
Bismarck, ND 58503-0583

**Ohio:** Ohio Department of Education,  
Educator Licensure  
25 South Front Street  
Columbus, OH 43215-4183

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma State  
Department of Education  
Professional Standards-Teacher Certification  
2500 North Lincoln Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4599

**Oregon:** Oregon Department of Education,  
Laws and Licensure  
255 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97310-0203

**Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania Department  
of Education  
Professional Standard and Practices Commission  
9th Floor- 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17126-0333

**Rhode Island:** Rhode Island Department of  
Elementary and Secondary Education  
Office of Educator Quality and Certification  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, RI 02903

**South Carolina:** South Carolina Department  
of Education  
Office of Educator Certification  
3700 Forest Drive, Suite 500  
Columbia, SC 29204

**South Dakota:** South Dakota Department  
of Education  
Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality  
700 Governors Drive  
Pierre, SD 57501

**Tennessee:** Office of Teacher Licensure,  
Tennessee Department of Education  
4th Floor, Andrew Johnson Tower  
710 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0377

**Texas:** Texas Educator Agency Educator  
Certification and Standards  
1701 North Congress Ave., WBT 5-100  
Austin, TX 78701-1494

**Utah:** State of Utah Office of Education  
Educator Quality and Licensing  
250 East 500 South, P.O. Box 144200  
Salt Lake, UT 84114-4200

**Vermont:** Vermont Department of Education  
120 State Street  
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

**Virginia:** Virginia Department of Education  
Division of Teacher Educator and Licensure  
P.O. Box 2120  
Richmond, VA 23218

**Washington:** Washington Office of  
Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Professional Educator and Certification  
Old Capitol Building, P.O. Box 47200  
Olympia, WA 98504-7200

**West Virginia:** West Virginia Department  
of Education  
Teacher Certification  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard  
Charleston, WV 25305

**Wisconsin:** Wisconsin Department  
of Public Instruction  
Teacher Educator, Professional Development  
and Licensing  
125 S. Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841  
Madison, WI 53707-7841



**Wyoming:** Wyoming Professional Teacher  
Standards Board  
1920 Thomas Avenue, Suite 400  
Cheyenne, WY 82002

**Washington, D.C.:** Office of Academic  
Credentials and Standards  
825 N. Capitol Street, NE, Sixth Floor,  
Washington, D.C. 20002



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## Notes

1. The information contained in this publication reflects the knowledge available at the time of the inquiry.
2. The publication was developed with an awareness of the dynamic state of the information. That is, the data collected are ever-changing.
3. Efforts were made to speak directly with knowledgeable representatives when Web site information needed clarification. Differences between Web site information and oral communication may have occurred due to ongoing data collection. Corrections will be noted when informed.





