



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.  
 Interim State Superintendent  
 of Education

September 1, 2016

Alabama  
 State Board  
 of Education

**MEMORANDUM**

Governor  
 Robert Bentley  
 President

**TO:** Deans of Education

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.  
 District I

**FROM:** Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*  
 Interim State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters  
 District II

**SUBJECT:** Pre-K Teacher Certification Options

Stephanie Bell  
 District III

For months, Ms. Jeana Ross, Secretary, Department of Early Childhood Education, and I have been working together to increase the supply of individuals who are prepared to teach children ages birth to four. Recently, Ms. Ross and I met with selected staff members from her department and this department to ask them to work together to develop an overview of options for earning a Pre-K certificate that will be issued by the Alabama State Department of Education.

Yvette M.  
 Richardson, Ed.D.  
 District IV  
 Vice President

The document attached to this memorandum provides a summary of two options, one leading to a Class B Pre-K Professional Educator Certificate and the other leading to a Pre-K Child Development Certificate. Provision of the Child Development Certificate option requires accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). For the Class B program option, the rules specific to Pre-K will be the same NAEYC-based rules that are provided on pages 278-280 of the Educator Preparation Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code* [Rule 290-3-3-.05(2)(a)-(f)].

Ella B. Bell  
 District V

It is not our intent to eliminate the Class B Early Childhood Education (P-3) program option. No institution will be required to develop a Pre-K program. ALSDE staff members have confirmed with Dr. Stevie Chepko, Senior Vice President, Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), that a Pre-K program is not subject to CAEP review and accreditation.

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.  
 District VI

Please share this information with members of your faculty as well as with faculty in your institution's College/School/Division/Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, Human Sciences, or Human Environmental Sciences. If you have comments, suggestions, and/or questions, please send them to Dr. Jayne A. Meyer at [jmeyer@alsde.edu](mailto:jmeyer@alsde.edu) by September 23, 2016. Soon thereafter, we will begin the preparation of rules to be presented to the Alabama State Board of Education.

Jeff Newman  
 District VII

Thank you for your participation in this process.

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.  
 District VIII  
 President Pro Tem

PCC/JAM/SG

Attachment

Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.  
 Interim Secretary and  
 Executive Officer

cc: Ms. Jeana Ross  
 Dr. Mark Kirkemier

Dr. Jayne A. Meyer  
 Mrs. Shavon H. Cummings



August 2016

**PROPOSED PRE-K (BIRTH – AGE 4) CERTIFICATE OPTIONS**

**Class B Pre-K Certificate (Birth-Age 4)**

A Bachelor's degree from a senior institution of higher education that was regionally accredited when the degree was conferred.

Meets standards in the Educator Preparation Chapter of the *Alabama Administrative Code* relevant to ECE (P-3) to include:

Background clearance through the ALSDE prior to working with children  
GPA of 2.75 for program admission, retention, and completion

Testing:

Basic Skills for Program Admission  
Praxis II 5531, Pre-K Education  
Praxis Principles of Learning & Teaching or edTPA, depending on application date  
Program accredited by NAEYC or submitted for review and approved by the ALSDE (teaching field meets (32/19) and includes at least 18 semester hours of courses specific to child development and/or ECE)

Faculty: At least three with appropriate earned doctorates and pre-K teaching experience, one with child development concentration; one with expertise in foundational reading; and one with expertise in numeracy

Clinical/internship experiences: must span birth through age 4 in day care and Office of School Readiness programs

Recommended for certification by the college/school/division/department of education certification officer

Valid for 5 years and renewable

**Child Development Certificate (Birth-Age 4)**

A Bachelor's degree from a senior institution of higher education that was regionally accredited when the degree was conferred.

Completion of a program in child development accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and

Background clearance through the ALSDE prior to working with children.

GPA of 2.75 for program completion.

Testing:

Basic Skills for Program Admission  
Praxis II 5531, Pre-K Education and  
Praxis Principles of Learning & Teaching or edTPA, depending on application date

Clinical/internship experiences: must span birth through age 4 in day care and Office of School Readiness programs

Program completion verified by the dean or head of the unit that houses the program

Valid for 5 years and renewable