

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION



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VIRGIN ISLANDS BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES REVISIONS TO ITS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CERTIFICATION CRITERIA

At its December 10, 2021 regular board meeting, the 20th VI Board of Education approved revisions to its Early Childhood Education (ECE) certification requirements.

Certification in ECE may be issued to experienced elementary educators who are teaching in the territory's public schools on the PreK-third grade level but who do not hold a certificate in early childhood education. These teachers must present evidence of having met all requirements to receive certification in Early Childhood Education. For more information, please contact our office at 340-774-4546 or 340-772-4144, option 3.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Virgin Islands Board of Education is to provide leadership and oversight, set policy and advocate for continuous improvement of the Public Education System of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

VISION STATEMENT

Each child is provided with the best quality education which guarantees academic excellence, promotes our history and culture, and builds strong local and global communities.

EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATION FOR CURRENT ELEMENTARY EDUCATORS
(in accordance with ACT 8270 and in collaboration with the VIDE
(Expires October 1, 2023)

OPTION 1

Certification in ECE may be issued to experienced certified elementary educators who are teaching on the prek- third grade level in the VI but who do not have early childhood certification. These teachers must present evidence of having met all of the following requirements by December 2022 to receive Certification in Early Childhood Education for 5 years.

- A. Current elementary educator certification (not conditional) issued by the VIBE
- B. A minimum of 5 years documented teaching experience on the primary (preK-3) level in the Virgin Islands
- C. Satisfactory end of year evaluations for at least 5 of the most recent years.
- D. Letter of Recommendation from current principal (or former principal for the past 3 years)
- E. One of the following four options completed:
 - 1. Successful completion of ECE Praxis **II** with an approved ECE Praxis score (minimum of 152)
 - 2. A minimum of 30 professional development hours in early childhood education related areas
 - 3. Completion of one of the following courses (3 credits=30 hours): Intro to Early Childhood / Basic Principles & Practices in ECE; Early Childhood Development and Inclusive Environments; Positive Socio-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning;
 - 4. Completion of a specialized program /pathway designed by the Department of Education and approved by the Board of Education. This may be online program. (equivalent to 30 hours PD)

OPTION 2

Certification in ECE may be issued to certified teachers who teach on the elementary level in the VI, if all of the following requirements are met by August 2024.

- A. Current elementary educator certification issued by the VI Board of Education
- B. Successful completion of ECE Praxis II with an approved ECE Praxis score (minimum of 152).
- C. One of the following four options completed within five years of applying:
 - 1. A minimum of 90 professional development hours in early childhood education related areas.
 - 2. Completion of three of the following courses in early childhood education (9 credits=90 hours): Intro to Early Childhood / Basic Principles & Practices in ECE; Early Childhood Development and Inclusive Environments; Positive Socio-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning; Early Literacy & Language Development;
 - 3. Completion of a specialized program /pathway designed by the Department of Education and approved by the Board of Education. (This may be an online program.) (Equivalent to 90 hours)
 - 4. Certificate in Early Childhood Education from an accredited institution

GENERAL ECE CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
(For new applicants beginning with the 2022-2023 School Year)

1. Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Early Childhood Education from an accredited institution including a minimum of 15 course credits in early childhood related fields. Courses must include at least 5 courses from among the following areas: Intro to Early Childhood / Basic Principles & Practices in ECE; Early Childhood Development and Inclusive Environments; Curriculum, Teaching & Assessment in ECE; Positive Socio-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning; Early Literacy & Language Development; Instructional Technology/ Creative Visual Arts; Family & Community Relationships; Educational Psychology, Classroom Management, Ethics; **AND**

A minimum of 5 credit hours of student teaching in early childhood setting or a minimum of 400 hours of documented supervised work or other field experience in early childhood setting; **AND**

Praxis II Early Childhood Assessment with an approved ECE Praxis score (minimum 152).

OR

2. Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Elementary Education from an accredited institution including a minimum of 15 semester credit hours from among the following early childhood courses: Intro to Early Childhood/Basic Principles & Practices in ECE; Early Childhood Development and Inclusive Environments; Curriculum, Teaching & Assessment in ECE; Positive Socio-Emotional Foundations of Early Learning; Early Literacy & Language Development; Instructional Technology/Creative Visual Arts; Family & Community Relationships; Educational Psychology, Classroom Management, Ethics

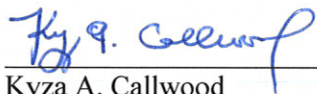
OR

3. Bachelor's Degree or Higher in Elementary Education from an accredited institution plus an Associate's degree or Certificate in Early Childhood from an accredited entity; **AND**

A minimum of 5 credit hours of student teaching in early childhood setting or a minimum of 400 hours of documented supervised work or other field experience in early childhood setting; **AND**

Praxis II Early Childhood Assessment with an approved ECE Praxis score (minimum of 152).

I, Kyza A. Callwood, the duly appointed and qualified Chair of the governing board of the Virgin Islands Board of Education, do hereby certify that the above revisions to the Early Childhood Education certification requirements were adopted by the Virgin Islands Board of Education on December 10, 2021 and the Executive Director is authorized to effectuate the completion of the publication process.



Kyza A. Callwood
Chairperson, Board of Education

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the said Virgin Islands Board of Education this 30th day of December, 2021.


Shawna K. Richards, Secretary

