

FULL APPROVAL FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

POLICY & CRITERIA:

1. The candidate must possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate with an endorsement in at least one area of special education and a major or minor in early childhood education or child growth and development.
2. An employer can request approval for an Early Childhood Special Education teacher if the candidate has a major or minor in early childhood education or child growth and development and has an endorsement in an area of special education. (Candidates who have a ZA or ZS endorsement with a special education endorsement do not need this approval.)
3. Programs may be titled as something other than "Early Childhood Special Education." However, if more than half of the students in the program are younger than six years old, the teacher must have an Early Childhood Special Education approval.
4. A request for full approval must be received by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) during the school year (July 1 to June 30) in which the effective date applies.
5. Early Childhood Special Education Teacher approval is granted from the beginning of the school year in which it is requested or the date that all requirements for the approval are met, whichever is later.
6. Early Childhood Special Education Teacher approval does not expire as long as the teacher maintains a valid Michigan teaching certificate. Approval is transferable from one school district to the next.

