

Assignments for Elementary Endorsed Teachers

GRADE LEVEL DESIGNATIONS

Michigan has historically issued different elementary education endorsements. Each endorsement had different designations that indicate the grade levels or settings for which the teacher was prepared. These designations are maintained on the certificate regardless of when earned. The following description should guide the placement of elementary teachers based upon the designation held:

- **“Elementary K-5 All Subjects; K-8 All Subjects Self-Contained Classrooms”** endorsements are valid for teaching all subjects in grades K-5, either self-contained or departmentalized assignments. Holders of these endorsements may also be assigned to teach all subjects in self-contained classroom assignments up through and including grade 8. Certificates with this type of designation may also hold specific subject areas endorsements, typically for grades 6-8. Please utilize the [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#) document to appropriately place these teachers in the endorsed subject area(s) within 6-8 departmentalized settings.
- **“Elementary K-8 All Subjects”** endorsements are valid for teaching all subjects in grades K-8. This includes both self-contained and departmentalized classroom settings or assignments. Certificates with this type of designation may also hold specific subject areas endorsements, typically for grade 9.
- **“Secondary 7-8 All Subjects”** endorsements are valid for teaching all subjects in grades 7-8. This includes both self-contained and departmentalized classroom settings or assignments. Certificates with this type of designation will also hold specific subject area endorsements, typically for grades 6-12. Please utilize the [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#) document to appropriately place these teachers in the endorsed subject area(s) within 6-12 departmentalized settings.

These elementary endorsements all contain what are known as “all subjects” designations and authorize the holder, under Michigan law, to teach all subjects within the grade levels indicated. However, the teacher generalist, who is prepared to teach in a self-contained classroom, may not be appropriately prepared to teach in a program outside the self-contained classroom setting. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) **recommends** that the holders of these “all subjects” designations only be assigned to teach departmentalized courses, or as a specialist in a program outside the self-contained classroom setting (e.g., music, visual arts, physical education, health, reading, technology, library media), if they hold those specific endorsements. This has been identified as a practice that has the most significant impact on student achievement. Recognizing the staffing limitations in small and rural schools, teachers with these designations should only be placed in these assignments if they have had appropriate coursework, professional development, or have passed a state or nationally recognized subject area assessment in the relevant subject area.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES: DEFINITIONS

The [Administrative Rules Governing the Certification of Michigan Teachers](#) provide the following definitions that are necessary in determining teaching assignments:

- “Certificate endorsement” means a discipline area that a teacher is authorized to teach at specific grade levels based on completion of an appropriate program and passing the appropriate state teacher discipline area examination.
- “Elementary grade level authorization” means an authorization on a certificate to teach designated subjects in any grade or grade range from prekindergarten to grade 8.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Please note that as of September 4, 2014, the ZS endorsement appears on a Michigan teaching certificate as “Early Childhood PK - General and Special Education (ZS).” Holders of the ZS and Early Childhood Education Pre K-K (ZA) endorsements alone are **not** authorized to teach the following:

- K-12 special education **without** also holding a specific special education endorsement, e.g., Learning Disabilities (SM) K-12 and Emotional Impairment (SE) K-12.
- Elementary K-5 **without** also holding a general elementary endorsement.

ASSIGNMENT GUIDANCE

The following table provides examples of appropriate teaching assignments for elementary endorsed teachers. For some assignments, specific endorsements are required.

Assignment	Required Endorsement
<p>Kindergarten through grade 8 self-contained classroom and developmental kindergarten (e.g., Young 5s)</p>	<p>Elementary endorsements with the following designations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elementary K-8 All Subjects • Secondary 7-8 All Subjects • K-5 All Subjects; K-8 All Subjects Self-Contained Classrooms <p>A self-contained classroom is one in which one teacher provides instruction to the same pupils for the majority of the pupils' instructional day.</p> <p>It is recommended that either the Early Childhood Education endorsement (ZA) or the Early Childhood PK- General and Special Education endorsement (ZS) be held by teachers selected to teach at the K-3 grade levels. It is not required by law and is locally determined.</p>
<p>K-5 grade level content in departmentalized classes where a teacher is designated the specialist in mathematics, reading, science, social studies, physical education, music, visual arts, health, Title I reading, Title I math, world languages, technology, or library media, etc. (e.g. 4th grade science and K-5 physical education).</p>	<p>General Elementary Education endorsements are allowable for K-5 placements.</p> <p>It is recommended that one of the following be evident for teachers selected to teach departmentalized classes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The specific endorsement area be listed on the certificate • Content-specific courses equivalent to a major or minor be completed • Professional development for advanced knowledge in specific subject area be completed • Successful passage of a state or nationally recognized content or proficiency test <p>The above is not required by law and is locally determined.</p>

Assignment	Required Endorsement
Early childhood special education programs for ages 2.5 to 5 years (MARSE MCL 340.1754 Programs)	Early Childhood PK - General and Special Education endorsement (ZS) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Early Childhood PK - General with Special Education endorsement (ZS) and categorical special education endorsement <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Early Childhood Education endorsement (ZA) and categorical special education endorsement
Lead Teacher - Preschool: • Great Start Readiness Program • Title I preschool	Early Childhood Education endorsement (ZA) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Early Childhood PK - General and Special Education endorsement (ZS) The Great Start Readiness Program and Title I preschool may also be taught by an individual with a bachelor's degree in child development or early childhood education with specialization in preschool teaching. See Section 32d of the State School Aid Act . NOTE: Holders of the bachelor's degree in child development or early childhood education with specialization in preschool teaching cannot be assigned in a K-5 classroom without also holding a valid teaching certificate with an elementary grade level designation.
Elementary & Middle School Language Immersion classroom	Elementary Education endorsement with the specific world language endorsement (e.g., Spanish) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Elementary Education endorsement with the specific bilingual endorsement (e.g., Bilingual Chaldean) <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Co-teaching model: A teacher with an Elementary Education endorsement AND A teacher with the specific world language or bilingual endorsement (e.g., Japanese or Bilingual Filipino)

Additional assistance and information for teacher placement can be found in the Appropriate Placement of Educators, [Quick Reference: Courses That Can Be Taught](#), or [Special Education Placement](#) guidance documents.