

Assistant Teacher Requirements

Requirements for Pre-K Assistant Teachers for August 2020

The pre-kindergarten assistant teacher qualifications will change effective August 1, 2020. **By August 1, 2020, 50% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below. By August 1, 2022, 100% of assistant teachers in each district will meet the requirements described below.**

Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

Early Childhood Associate's Degree		
OR		
Associate's Degree OR 60 College Credit Hours	AND	12 early childhood college credit hours* OR Completion of an early childhood training program**
OR		
High School Diploma/GED *** AND Verification of WorkKeys® Scores****	AND	12 early childhood college credit hours OR Completion of an early childhood training program**

*These hours can be included in the Associate's Degree or 60 College Credit Hours

**Completion of an early childhood training program includes the Child Development Associate (CDA), National/State Director's Credential, Montessori Credential, and the MDE's intensive specialized early childhood training program. MDE considers additional state, regional, or nationally approved programs upon request. Entities may submit program component documentation to earlychildhood@mdek12.org for consideration. The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) requires assistant teachers to have a CDA or equivalent, at a minimum. Please note that the completion of a Mississippi State Board of Education approved training program or MDE prescribed twelve (12) hours of coursework only qualifies a prospective early childhood education teacher or early childhood education assistant teacher to serve three and four-year old children in MS classrooms and does not lead to an endorsement/licensure unless it is explicitly stated and outlined in the official *Licensure Guidelines K-12* document. To review the most accurate and up to date licensure requirements, please visit the Office of Educator Licensure section of the MDE website.

***These requirements will no longer be acceptable for new pre-kindergarten teacher assistant hires beginning August 1, 2020.

**** To meet WorkKeys® requirements, Assistant Teachers must meet the following criteria: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3; **OR** (2) WorkKeys® Silver Level certification.

Sourced from: *Early Learning Guidelines for Classrooms Serving Three- and Four-Year Old Children* (2018)

Requirements for Kindergarten and Other Assistant Teachers

Assistant teachers are required to follow one of the pathways listed below:

Hold an Associate's Degree or higher

OR

Two Years or 48 College Credit Hours
(transcript verification required)

OR

High School Diploma/GED
AND
Verification of WorkKeys® Scores****

**** To meet WorkKeys® requirements, Assistant Teachers must meet the following criteria: (1) a Reading for Information score of 4, an Applied Mathematics score of 4, and a Writing or Business Writing score of 3; **OR** WorkKeys® Silver Level certification: Workplace Documents score of 4, Applied Mathematics score of 4 and Writing or Business Writing score of 3.

Sourced from: *Kindergarten Guidelines* (2018) DRAFT