

A green chalkboard with two pieces of pink chalk and some faint white chalk markings. The text "Act 187 of 2009" is written in a dark green font, and "Birth- Prekindergarten Teaching Credential" is written in a black font.

Act 187 of 2009

**Birth- Prekindergarten
Teaching Credential**



Rationale for Act 187

- Leader in the field of early childhood education
- Provides professional development
- No clear professional pathway for persons wishing to work with Birth-Prekindergarten children
- Few positions require a baccalaureate; while public school ECE programs require a P-4
- A clear pathway needs to be developed



Rationale for Act 187

- Birth-Prekindergarten teaching credential and endorsement will provide the pathway
- National recommendations suggest preparation needs to be specific to the age group
- To address the early care and education needs of Birth-Prekindergarten children

Duties of DCCECE

- (1) Child Care and Development Block Grant
- (2) Arkansas Better Chance Program
- (3) Special Nutrition
- (4) Rules and regulations governing child care facilities
- (5) Operation of the commission
- (6) Program support for child care programs
- (7) Program support for child care facilities
- (8) Solicit grant funds for EC and CC programs
- (9) Administer the Birth-Prekindergarten teaching credential

Credential and Endorsement

- Who may obtain the Birth-Prekindergarten credential:
 - *a person teaching in a public ECE program*
 - *does not permit use in lieu of a P-4 License*
- Institutions of higher education may submit to Department of Education proposals for the creations of a birth through prekindergarten endorsement for P-4 teacher licensure

Criteria for Act 187

- Valid for five (5) years and may be renewed
- No fee required
- Institutions of higher education may submit to Department of Education proposals for the creations of a birth through prekindergarten endorsement for P-4 teacher licensure



The Birth-PreK Credential requires that the applicant:

- Meets a minimum educational level
- Completes a core of courses
 - *Core courses meet the standards set by the division*
- Completes a minimum of 30 professional development hours annually
- Will be monitored and assessed by the Division

Core Courses

- Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Education
- State-supported institutions of higher education
- Arkansas Higher Education Coordinating Board
 - *Shall establish a minimum core of early childhood dev and education courses that shall be applied toward meeting the requirements of the pre-k endorsement to a teaching degree*



Core Courses

- Aligned to National Association of Educating Young Children (NAEYC) Standards
- Correlated to:
 - *Head Start Outcomes*
 - *TAPP competencies*
- Developed by the Higher Education Work Group, a group of two and four year early childhood college instructors

Core Courses

Contain the following:

- *Common course names*
- *Common course descriptions*
- *Common course outcomes*
- *Selection of learning opportunities for each course outcome*
- *Selection of assessments for each course outcome*



Core Courses

- Foundations of Early Childhood Education
- Child Growth and Development (AAT statewide syllabus)
- Early childhood Curriculum (Birth-Prekindergarten)
- Literacy and Language Arts for Early Childhood
- Math and Science for Birth through Pre-kindergarten
- Child Guidance
- Practicum
- Future Perspectives in Early Childhood (capstone course)

Where are we now?

- Promulgation process
- Public comment period
 - *October 14-November 15*
 - *Comments must be submitted in writing.*
- ALC-Administrative Rules and Regulations
 - *Tentative date-December 14, 2010*
- Tentative effective date
 - *January 1, 2011*



For more information

- Rules governing the process and procedures of the Birth-Pre Kindergarten teaching credential:

Jamie Morrison, DCCECE

Jamie.morrison@arkansas.gov

- Higher education work group:

Trude Puckett, Pulaski Tech

tpuckett@pulaskitech.edu