

5123:2-5-05

**Early intervention services certification standards.****(A) Purpose**

The purpose of this rule is to establish minimum qualifications through certification standards for staff employed in early intervention services positions at county boards of developmental disabilities. These standards shall apply to persons, directly providing or supervising the provision of early intervention services, who are employed by county boards of developmental disabilities and by entities under contract with county boards of developmental disabilities to provide or supervise the provision of early intervention services.

**(B) Definitions**

- (1) "Accredited college or university" means a college or university accredited by a national or regional association in the United States or a foreign college or university of comparable standing.
- (2) "College course" means department-approved instruction of at least two semester hours or three quarter hours of credit provided by an accredited college or university.
- (3) "Continuing professional education" means department-approved training required for renewal of early intervention specialist and early intervention supervisor certification.
- (4) "County board" means a county board of developmental disabilities.
- (5) "Early intervention service provider" means any entity or individual that provides early intervention services, whether or not the entity or individual receives federal funding under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 34 C.F.R. part 303 (September 2011).
- (6) "Early intervention services" means developmental services selected in collaboration with the parents of an infant or toddler birth through age two, and designed to meet the developmental needs of the infant or toddler and the needs of the family to assist appropriately in the infant's or toddler's development as identified by the individual family service planning team.
- (7) "Early intervention specialist" means a professional trained to develop and implement strategies and interventions, which may include, but are not limited to, the special instruction identified in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 34 C.F.R. part 303 (September 2011) as follows:
  - (a) Design of learning environments and activities that promote a child's acquisition of skills in a variety of developmental areas, including cognitive processes and social interaction;

- (b) Curriculum planning, including the planned interaction of personnel, materials, and time and space, that leads to achieving outcomes identified in an individual family service plan;
  - (c) Providing families with information, skills, and support related to enhancing the skill development of a child; and
  - (d) Working with a child to enhance the child's development.
- (8) "Early intervention supervisor" means a person who supervises early intervention service providers.
- (9) "Department" means the Ohio department of developmental disabilities.
- (10) "Seminar" means department-approved instruction of a minimum of thirty hours that is:
  - (a) Provided by a department-approved instructor who holds a master's degree or doctorate degree in early childhood education, special education, or a closely related field and who possesses in-depth knowledge related to the content area of the seminar;
  - (b) Formulated on current evidence-based practices and conforming to part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 34 C.F.R. part 303 (September 2011) and state early intervention services requirements;
  - (c) Structured in accordance with principles of adult learning; and
  - (d) Based on peer-reviewed literature and research.
- (11) "Superintendent" means a person certified by the department in accordance with rule 5123:2-5-03 of the Administrative Code and employed in that capacity by a county board or for purposes of issuing certifications in accordance with this rule, a person who is authorized in writing by the superintendent to perform that function.

### (C) Description

There are two levels of early intervention services certification:

#### (1) Early intervention specialist

##### (a) One-year certification

- (i) A superintendent may issue early intervention specialist certification for an initial period of one year to an applicant who:

(a) Is employed by or under contract with the county board; and

(b) Meets one of the following:

(i) Holds a bachelor's degree or graduate-level degree in education, health, social or behavioral science, social services, human services, or other related field from an accredited college or university; or

(ii) Holds a bachelor's degree or graduate-level degree in an unrelated field from an accredited college or university and has at least two years of full-time (or equivalent part-time), supervised, paid experience working with children birth through age five with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and their families; or

(iii) Holds a valid license in counseling; early childhood education for ages three through eight, grades kindergarten through third, or special education; hearing impairment intervention; medicine; nursing; occupational therapy; physical therapy; psychology; psychiatry; social work; speech-language pathology; or visual impairment intervention.

(ii) The superintendent may renew the early intervention specialist certification of an employee of the county board for subsequent periods of one year for an employee who has successfully completed at least one of the college courses/seminars specified in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule during the period of the preceding early intervention specialist certification.

(b) Five-year certification

(i) A superintendent may issue early intervention specialist certification for an initial period of five years to an applicant who:

(a) Meets one of the following:

(i) Holds a bachelor's degree or graduate-level degree in education, health, social or behavioral science, social services, human services, or other related field from an accredited college or university; or

(ii) Holds a bachelor's degree or graduate-level degree in an unrelated field from an accredited college or university and has at least two years of full-time (or equivalent part-time), supervised, paid experience working with children birth through age five with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and their families; or

(iii) Holds a valid license in counseling; early childhood education for ages three through eight, grades kindergarten through third, or special education; hearing impairment intervention; medicine; nursing; occupational therapy; physical therapy; psychology; psychiatry; social work; speech-language pathology; or visual impairment intervention.

(b) Has successfully completed one college course or seminar in each of the following areas:

(i) Infant/toddler growth and development;

(ii) Disabilities and risk factors from birth;

(iii) Family dynamics from birth;

(iv) Assessment and evaluation;

(v) Team models and community collaboration; and

(vi) Intervention program planning and development.

(ii) When requested in writing by a superintendent or an applicant and with accompanying rationale, the department may waive the requirement for the applicant to complete a college course or seminar in one or more of the areas set forth in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule. The department's decision to grant or deny a request is final and may not be appealed.

(c) A superintendent may renew the early intervention specialist certification of an applicant for subsequent periods of five years provided the applicant has either:

(i) Successfully completed fifty hours of continuing professional education and worked for at least four thousand hours directly

providing early intervention services through individual family service plans or developing early intervention services policy and/or instructional materials during the period of the preceding early intervention specialist certification; or

(ii) Successfully completed eighty hours of continuing professional education during the period of the preceding early intervention specialist certification.

(2) Early intervention supervisor

(a) A superintendent may issue early intervention supervisor certification for an initial period of five years to an applicant who:

(i) Meets the requirements for five-year early intervention specialist certification as set forth in paragraph (C)(1)(b) of this rule;

(ii) Has successfully completed college courses in at least two of the following areas:

(a) Business, health care, public, or social agency administration;

(b) Communication and public relations;

(c) Human resources management;

(d) Information technology management;

(e) Negotiation, conflict resolution, and mediation;

(f) Organizational theory and development;

(g) Principles of leadership/supervision; or

(h) Strategic planning, management, and implementation.

(iii) Has either:

(a) At least four years of full-time (or equivalent part-time), supervised, paid experience working with children birth through age five with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and their families; or

(b) At least two years of full-time (or equivalent part-time), supervised, paid experience working with children birth

through age five with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and their families and at least two years of full-time (or equivalent part-time) supervised, paid experience in a management or supervisory role.

(b) A superintendent may renew the early intervention supervisor certification of an applicant for subsequent periods of five years provided the applicant has either:

(i) Successfully completed seventy-five hours of continuing professional education and worked for at least four thousand hours supervising early intervention service providers, directly providing early intervention services through individual family service plans, or developing early intervention services policy and/or instructional materials during the period of the preceding early intervention supervisor certification; or

(ii) Successfully completed one hundred twenty hours of continuing professional education during the period of the preceding early intervention supervisor certification.

#### (D) Training requirements

The superintendent shall ensure that persons employed by or under contract with the county board to provide early intervention services or supervise early intervention service providers annually complete training in:

(1) The provisions governing rights of individuals set forth in sections 5123.62 to 5123.64 of the Revised Code; and

(2) The requirements of rule 5123:2-17-02 of the Administrative Code including a review of health and welfare alerts issued by the department since the previous year's training.

#### (E) Application fees

A superintendent may require applicants for early intervention services certification to pay an application fee.

(1) The application fee for one-year early intervention specialist certification or one-year special transitional early intervention supervisor certification issued in accordance with paragraph (H)(4) of this rule shall not exceed ten dollars.

(2) The application fee for five-year early intervention specialist certification shall not exceed fifty dollars.

(3) The application fee for five-year early intervention supervisor certification shall not exceed seventy-five dollars.

(F) Early intervention supervisors working less than .5 full-time equivalent

A person employed on or before December 4, 1992 as an early intervention supervisor for less than .5 full-time equivalent is not required to hold early intervention supervisor certification. A person newly employed after December 4, 1992 as an early intervention supervisor for less than .5 full-time equivalent shall possess:

- (1) Early intervention supervisor certification issued in accordance with this rule; or
- (2) A currently valid Ohio department of education provisional certificate in supervision with validation in early education of the handicapped or special education for children with disabilities; or
- (3) A master's degree in a related field from an accredited college or university and at least five years, two of which are within the last five years, of full-time (or equivalent part-time), supervised, paid experience working with children birth through age five with disabilities, developmental delays, or diagnosed physical or mental conditions that have a high probability of resulting in a developmental delay and their families.

(G) Reciprocity

A superintendent shall accept as valid early intervention certifications issued in accordance with this rule by the superintendent of another county board.

(H) Early intervention registrations and certifications issued prior to the effective date of this rule

- (1) Substitute grade, temporary grade, provisional grade, and professional grade early intervention registrations and certifications issued prior to the effective date of this rule shall remain in effect until their assigned expiration dates. No additional substitute grade, temporary grade, provisional grade, or professional grade early intervention registrations or certifications shall be issued on or after the effective date of this rule.
- (2) An employee of a county board who, on the effective date of this rule, holds substitute grade or temporary grade early intervention specialist level certification issued prior to the effective date of this rule shall be eligible for one-year early intervention specialist certification. The employee shall be eligible to renew the early intervention specialist certification for periods of one year provided he or she has successfully completed at least one of the college courses/seminars specified in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule

during the period of the preceding early intervention specialist certification. Once the employee has successfully completed all of the college courses/seminars specified in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule, he or she shall be eligible for five-year early intervention specialist certification. Renewal of the employee's five-year early intervention specialist certification shall be in accordance with paragraph (C)(1)(c) of this rule.

(3) A person who, on the effective date of this rule, holds provisional grade or professional grade early intervention specialist level certification issued prior to the effective date of this rule shall be eligible for five-year early intervention specialist certification. Renewal of the person's five-year early intervention specialist certification shall be in accordance with paragraph (C)(1)(c) of this rule.

(4) An employee of a county board who, on the effective date of this rule, holds temporary grade early intervention supervisor level certification issued prior to the effective date of this rule shall be eligible for one-year special transitional early intervention supervisor certification. The employee shall be eligible to renew the special transitional early intervention supervisor certification for periods of one year provided he or she has successfully completed at least one college course/seminar specified in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule or one college course specified in paragraph (C)(2)(a)(ii) of this rule during the period of the preceding special transitional early intervention supervisor certification. Once the employee has successfully completed all of the college courses/seminars specified in paragraph (C)(1)(b)(i)(b) of this rule and two college courses specified in paragraph (C)(2)(a)(ii) of this rule, he or she shall be eligible for five-year early intervention supervisor certification. Renewal of the employee's five-year early intervention supervisor certification shall be in accordance with paragraph (C)(2)(b) of this rule.

(5) A person who, on the effective date of this rule, holds provisional grade or professional grade early intervention supervisor level certification issued prior to the effective date of this rule shall be eligible for five-year early intervention supervisor certification. Renewal of the person's early intervention supervisor certification shall be in accordance with paragraph (C)(2)(b) of this rule.

#### (I) Renewal of expired early intervention services certifications

(1) Early intervention specialist and early intervention supervisor certifications issued on or after the effective date of this rule which have been expired for less than one year may be renewed upon completion of all renewal requirements of the expired certification.

(2) Early intervention specialist and early intervention supervisor certifications

issued on or after the effective date of this rule which have been expired for one year or more shall not be renewed; the applicant shall be required to meet the requirements for initial early intervention specialist or early intervention supervisor certification, as applicable, pursuant to paragraph (C) of this rule.

(J) Administrative review

An applicant for early intervention services certification whose application is disapproved based upon the applicant's failure to meet the requirements of this rule, may request in writing, within thirty days of the rejection, an administrative review by the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.

(K) Denial, suspension, or revocation

Early intervention services certification is subject to denial, suspension, or revocation in accordance with rule 5123:2-5-04 of the Administrative Code.

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CERTIFIED ELECTRONICALLY

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Certification

06/24/2013

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Date

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