



## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

# Call for Proposals

## Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy

2023

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# Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Academy 2023

## 1. Program Description and Guidelines

The Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) seeks proposals from Arkansas Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to create Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academies to prepare licensed public school teachers to add the Early Childhood PreK Special Education endorsement. Although DESE will approve the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy proposal for a two-year period, the award must be renewed annually based on availability of funds, satisfactory performance on participant evaluations, compliance with DESE reporting and requirements, and the success rate for the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy graduates passing the Praxis® Early Childhood/Early Intervention (5692) upon first administration. The Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy will be at no cost to the participant. **All funds must be used by December 31, 2024.**

The academy requires completion of twelve (12) or more hours of approved coursework for an endorsement and a passing score on the Praxis® Early Childhood/Early Intervention (5692).

Programs prepare educators who are currently licensed in Early Childhood PreK (#517), Early Childhood P-4 (#001), or Elementary Education K-6 (#183 or #253) employed by an Arkansas public school or an educational cooperative on behalf of a school district to serve children with disabilities.

A director for each Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy will be appointed by the selected IHE to oversee the operation and management for the duration of the academy. It is anticipated that the director will be a staff member of the IHE chosen as the site for an Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy. The director would be responsible for maintaining accurate records and reports regarding the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy and communicating with the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Point of Contact at DESE.

### **A. Purpose of the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy**

The purpose of the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy is to prepare teachers to teach and provide early childhood special education services for children ages three to five and possess the knowledge to pass the Praxis® Early Childhood/Early Intervention (5692).

### **B. Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Curriculum**

The total curriculum for the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy will be based on competencies established for licensure and outlined in the [Competencies for PreK Special Education Endorsement](#).

### **C. Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Candidate Selection**

The Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy endorsement pathway is restricted to licensed employees of an Arkansas public school or an educational cooperative who currently hold a license in Early Childhood PreK (#517), Early Childhood P-4 (#001), or Elementary Education K-6 (#183 or #253).

Applicants may only participate in one Teacher Academy at a time and cannot participate if he/she has failed to complete a previous academy.

### **D. Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Participant Credit and/or Grades**

The Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy endorsement must provide the option to earn 12 or more graduate credits in Early Childhood PreK Special Education for candidates who successfully complete the endorsement program. All costs and fees related to receiving credit will be the responsibility of the IHE.

## **2. Directions for Submitting Proposals**

- A. Determine whether your IHE meets the criteria for selection.
- B. Complete a proposal packet, detailing the availability of all program elements.
- C. Complete the proposed budget sheet, [B2 2022](#) Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Grant Budget and Budget Narrative.
  - Provide an annual budget for a minimum of 20 Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy participants.
  - Include price per participant for a minimum of 20 participants.
  - Indicate which costs are per participant and which costs are fixed regardless of number of participants.
  - Indicate the maximum number of participants the site is able to support, up to 60.
- D. Complete the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Statement of Assurances which must be signed by the participating IHE President or Chief Officer.
- E. Submit proposal package with a letter from the college President or Chief Officer, along with appropriate support data, by September 30, 2022, to:

### **Academy Primary Point of Contact**

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### **3. Review and Approval Process**

#### **Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Proposal Department Review and Approval Process**

- A. The Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Approval Panel will be appointed by the Assistant Commissioner of Education for Learning Services.
- B. The panel will review proposals and may interview the IHE.
- C. The panel will recommend sites to the Secretary of Education for approval.

### **4. Application Components**

**A detailed description of each program component defined below is required for a complete application.**

- A. Name, title, address, phone number, email, and vita of the proposed program director.
- B. Dates, times, and location the grantee proposes to offer the Early Childhood PreK Special education Teacher Academy in 2023.
- C. Describe the coursework aligned with the competencies and include a performance assessment preferably as a capstone experience in the final course. If the program of study is not currently approved by the DESE Office of Educator Preparation, complete a proposal for a New Licensure Endorsement program using the [IHE Protocol for the Review and Approval of Programs of Study Leading to Licensure in Arkansas](#). Proposals must be submitted prior to the start of the Early Childhood

PreK Special Education Teacher Academy. The Office of Educator Preparation will prioritize review of these program submissions. Only IHEs with a DESE approved program of study at time of application may submit. Submission should include

- a. A copy of the plan of study for the program (list of courses, modules, micro-credentials, etc.).
  - b. Submit a program alignment to the [Competencies for PreK Special Education Endorsement](#).
  - c. Indicate where inclusion and alignment of the The Division of Early Childhood Recommended Practices are incorporated into current and/or future coursework.
  - d. Provide the performance assessment scoring rubric(s), and indicate the relative places within the program where the assessment occurs.
- D. Describe the qualifications that will be required for the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy director, instructors, staff, and other presenters.
- E. Explain the processes to be used by the grantee to register participants, award college credit, communicate with Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy participants, host information on the grantee website, and maintain attendance records.
- F. Explain how the grantee will provide asynchronous and/or synchronous digital instruction, if applicable.
- G. Include a personalized copy of the [Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Participation Form](#).
- H. Explain admission requirements and submit selection criteria for the prioritization of applicants (including any identified areas of high need).
- I. Explain how the effectiveness of the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy will be evaluated.
- J. Provide other information specific to the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy to be offered that you want the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Panel to consider when reviewing this proposal.

## 5. Grantee Responsibilities

- A. Appoint and support a director for the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy to oversee the operation and management for the duration of the academy. The director will be responsible for maintaining accurate records and reports regarding the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy and communicating with the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Point of Contact at DESE.
- B. Develop and implement criteria for selection of teachers should the number of applications exceed the number of participants funded.
- C. Provide on-going support for the participants throughout the school year to complete implementation components. All participants should complete the entire program within one year of their acceptance to the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy if seeking the endorsement.
- D. The Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy must provide the opportunity for the endorsement candidate to earn 12 or more credits in early childhood special education.
- E. Ensure alignment of the curriculum to the competencies established for licensure and outlined in the licensure and outlined in the [Competencies for PreK Special Education Endorsement](#).
- F. Provide instruction that prepares participants to pass the Praxis® Early Childhood/Early Intervention (5692).
- G. Collect and submit copies of the [Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Participation Form](#) for each participant enrolled in the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy.
- H. Process all paperwork and registrations for the Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy.

## 6. Proposed Annual Budget

Complete the proposed budget sheet, [B2 2022](#) Early Childhood PreK Special Education Teacher Academy Grant Budget and Budget Narrative.