

Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher (ECCAT)

Background Information

Senate Bill 359, passed by the Legislature during the 2013 Legislative Session, included the following language:

WVC §18-5-18. Kindergarten programs.

Beginning July 1, 2014, any person previously employed as an aide in a kindergarten program and who is employed in the same capacity on and after that date and any new person employed in that capacity in a kindergarten program on and after that date shall hold the position of either Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Temporary Authorization, Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Permanent Authorization or Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Paraprofessional Certificate. Any person employed as an aide in a kindergarten program that is eligible for full retirement benefits before July 1, 2020, may remain employed as an aide in that position and may not be required to acquire licensure pursuant to this section.

Certified List Position Codes

New position codes were added to the Certified List of Personnel for the ECCAT positions created by the Legislature.

- 506 Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Temporary Authorization** – Personnel employed who do not possess the minimum requirements for the permanent authorization requirements, but are enrolled in and pursuing requirements. Under WVC §18-5-18, Personnel employed in these positions must be employed to work in a kindergarten program (which includes pre-kindergarten).
- 507 Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Permanent Authorization** – Personnel who have completed the minimum requirements for a state-awarded certificate for early childhood classroom assistant teachers that meet or exceed the requirements for a child development associate. Equivalency for the West Virginia Department of Education will be determined as the child development associate or the West Virginia Apprenticeship for Child Development Specialists. Under WVC §18-5-18, Personnel employed in these positions must be employed to work in a kindergarten program (which includes pre-kindergarten).
- 508 Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Paraprofessional Certificate** – Personnel who have completed the permanent authorization requirements, as well as additional requirements comparable to the current paraprofessional certificate. Under WVC §18-5-18, Personnel employed in these positions must be employed to work in a kindergarten program (which includes pre-kindergarten).

Licensure Requirements

In accordance with State Board Policy 5202, the ECCAT positions require licensure through the WVDE Office of Professional Preparation. Any individual employed as an aide in a kindergarten program must, by July 1, 2014, apply for and be enrolled in a program to complete the requirements of the Permanent Authorization. While the individual is enrolled in the coursework and making progress towards completion of the requirements for the Permanent Authorization, he or she will be issued a Temporary Authorization. Upon completion of an approved program, the Permanent Authorization will be awarded.

The list of the certificate codes required for the ECCAT positions on the Certified List of Personnel are below. Please note that although the ECCAT – Paraprofessional position actually requires the individual to hold two certifications, the certified list can only accommodate one. The system will look for the paraprofessional certificate since that is what drives the higher pay grade.

Position	Title	Certification Code	Type of Certificate
506	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Temporary Authorization	50	Temporary Authorization
507	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Permanent Authorization	59	Permanent Authorization
508	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Paraprofessional Certificate	14*	Paraprofessional Certificate

*Individuals classified as an Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Paraprofessional must actually have both a certificate 14 (paraprofessional) and either a 50 (temporary authorization) or 59 (permanent authorization) in the area of Early Childhood Assistant Teacher. Because the certified list of personnel can only accept one certificate code per individual, enter the valid 14 in the certified list of personnel.

Additional Information

It has been interpreted by WVDE that the ECCAT positions are eligible for both supervisory pay as well as specialized healthcare procedures (STH). We recommend that the individuals listed in ECCAT positions be multi-classified as aides to eliminate any question regarding these pay grade bumps. The multi-classification is also recommended by the WVSSPA in order to assist with seniority issues.

It is also the WVDE’s position that individuals are only eligible to be classified as an ECCAT if they are working in a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten classroom. If an employee who holds the early childhood licensure from OPP opts to take a job outside of a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten classroom, then he or she is no longer employed in an ECCAT position and is therefore no longer entitled to the ECCAT pay grade. He or she is instead entitled to the pay grade of the job actually being performed.

Board Requirements

The Office of School Finance recommends that each county board of education take appropriate personnel action to reclassify all of the individuals impacted by the new position codes.

A sample board agenda item to assist with such a reclassification is below, with examples of each of the new position codes:

Social Security Number	Name (last, first)	From	From base pay grade	To	New base pay grade	Effective Date	Certification Expiration Date
123-45-6789	Doe, Jane	Aide II	B	Aide II /Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Temporary Authorization	E	First day of employment for 14-15 school year	Application pending
123-45-6789	Doe, Jane	Aide II	B	Aide II/ Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Permanent Authorization	E	First day of employment for 14-15 school year	Application pending
123-45-6789	Doe, Jane	Aide II	B	Aide II/ Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher – Paraprofessional Certificate	F	First day of employment for 14-15 school year	Application pending

State Aid Funding Implications

It is imperative that county boards of education appropriately classify all individuals employed as ECCATs on the 2014-15 Certified List of Personnel. Not only will the 2014-15 Certified List of Personnel be utilized for the 2015-16 state aid funding calculations, but it will also be used to perform calculations to provide additional state aid funding for the ECCAT pay grade increases for the 2014-15 school year. Failure to properly report the ECCATs will therefore result in reduced state aid funding for two years.