**Kentucky State-Funded Preschool Program Guidance | Lead Teacher Requirements**

In 2004-2005, the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) adopted [704 KAR 3:410](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/704/003/410.htm) requiring preschool teachers to have an Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Certificate (IECE). All lead preschool teachers hired after 2004 must be IECE certified to teach in state-funded preschool classrooms. In limited circumstances, the regulation allows preschool teachers, who were teaching prior to 2004 without an IECE certificate, to continue teaching in a state-funded preschool program.

The following credentials/certifications may be held by Kentucky lead preschool teachers:

**IECE (certified position).** The IECE certification covers the areas of special education and general education, birth to kindergarten ([16 KAR 2:040](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/016/002/040.htm)). This teacher may serve as the teacher of record for preschool special education students and may serve on the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) as a general education teacher. This teacher must complete the same amount of professional learning each year as any other certified lead teacher (24 hours). Districts unable to find an IECE certified teacher may pursue permission with EPSB to hire a person with a bachelor’s degree who will seek probationary IECE certification status ([16 KAR 2:140](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/016/002/140.htm)).

**K/Letter (certified position).** This letter of exemption was granted to preschool teachers holding Kindergarten through 6th Grade (or P-5) certification prior to 2004 and allows the bearer to continue teaching state-funded preschool without any additional certification. This teacher may serve as the teacher of record for preschool special education students and may serve on the ARC as a general education teacher.

**SpEd/Letter (certified position).** This letter of exemption was granted to preschool teachers holding Special Education (K-12) certification prior to 2004 and allows the bearer to continue teaching state-funded preschool without any additional certification. This teacher may serve as the teacher of record for preschool special education students and may serve on the ARC as a general education teacher.

**Child Dev/Letter (classified position).** This letter of exemption was granted to preschool teachers holding a child development degree prior to 2004 and allows the bearer to continue teaching state-funded preschool without any additional certification. This teacher may serve as the teacher of record for preschool special education students and may serve on the ARC as a general education teacher.

**Preschool Associate (classified position).** This refers to a lead preschool teacher holding a Child Development Associate (CDA) or Associate of Arts (AA) degree in early childhood hired to be a lead preschool teacher before the 2004-2005 school year. This teacher may teach within the district but may not transfer to another district. This teacher cannot serve as the teacher of record for preschool education students or serve on the ARC as a general education teacher. However, this teacher may implement preschool Individual Education Programs (IEPs) under the guidance of a certified IECE or special education teacher. This teacher must receive curriculum oversight by a qualified person ([704 KAR 3:420](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/kar/704/003/420.htm)).

Pursuant to [KRS 157.3175](http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/statute.aspx?id=42321), all preschool classrooms supported with funds appropriated by the General Assembly for preschool program services must be led by a teacher with the proper qualifications described above. Whenever there is a substantive concern about compliance involving lead preschool certification, the matter will be resolved in consultation with the Education Professional Standards Board.