

The background features a series of concentric circles in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A large, solid blue oval is positioned in the center, tilted slightly to the right. A thick, dark gray curved line sweeps from the bottom left towards the blue oval.

Early and Primary Education

K-12

Teaching:

- Pre-school
- Elementary
- Middle

Administration:

- Principal
- Superintendent

Special services:

- Reading
- Title 1
- Guidance counseling
- School psychology
- School social work
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Audiology and speech pathology
- Library/Information services

Special services continued:

- Special education
- Career/Technical education
- Self-Enrichment
- English as a second language
- Curriculum supervision
- Subject area supervision

Tutoring services

Test preparation

K-12 Employers

Elementary and middle schools:

- Public
- Private
- Montessori
- Magnet
- Charter

•Day care centers

•Nursery schools

•Boards of education

•Tutoring and learning centers

•Test preparation companies

•Overseas schools for military dependents

K-12 Strategies

Obtain experience working with target age group through volunteer or part-time positions.

- Demonstrate patience, creativity and the ability to work well with people of various backgrounds.

- Develop strong communications skills to deal effectively with students, staff and parents.

- Complete a college level teacher preparation program to obtain certification for desired subject area or grade level. Requirements vary by state.

- Private schools may not require certification.

- Pursue multiple certifications to increase employability.

- Earn master's degree for higher pay and for a hiring edge in some districts.

- Join related organizations such as National Education Association, International Reading Association, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, etc. to learn about current issues in the field.

- Research school administration graduate programs and certification requirements for principal positions.

- Graduate study is required for "special service" fields. Obtain master's degree in area to become a specialist.

General Education Information

Develop excellent communication skills, verbal and written. Become skilled in various teaching strategies and technologies.

- Demonstrate enthusiasm and energy for the field, particularly the desire to work with and help others.

- Obtain part-time, summer, internship or volunteer experience with the intended age group in various settings (e.g., pre-schools, day cares, camps, community agencies, adult centers, YMCA's).

- Participate in co-curricular activities and related organizations to broaden skills, interests and networking opportunities.

- Bachelor's degree is sufficient for certification to teach K-12 in most states. Obtain a master's degree for advancement and to increase earning potential.

- Advanced degrees are required for specialists, education administration, college teaching and some other professional positions.

- Maintain current knowledge of state and national legislation regarding teacher certification.

- Identify transferable skills learned in teaching applicable to alternative careers:

- Verbal and written communication, teaching and instruction, program planning, organization and record-keeping, working under pressure, meeting deadlines, motivating others, creativity, working autonomously, decision-making, problem solving and research.