

# Early Childhood General and Special Education (ZN) Endorsement

## What is the Early Childhood General and Special Education (ZN) endorsement?

This is a teaching endorsement on a Michigan teaching certificate that allows an individual to teach children from birth to kindergarten general education and to teach children from birth up to but not including kindergarten for special education. For example, teachers with the ZN endorsement are qualified to provide specialized instruction under *Early On* and to teach as an early childhood special education teacher. This endorsement does not require an additional general education endorsement.

## How do you earn the Early Childhood General and Special Education (ZN) endorsement?

You must complete an approved preparation program and be recommended by an approved preparation provider to add the ZN endorsement to your Michigan teaching certificate. This program will include coursework and at least 600 hours of clinical experience. At least 300 of those hours should be completed during a student teaching internship in an early childhood classroom where children are receiving special education services and/or in a natural environment where a child is receiving early intervention services. Certified teachers complete either an 8-week internship or if they possess one or more special education endorsements, a one hundred and eighty (180) hour practicum.

## Do I have to take a test to earn the ZN endorsement?

Yes, you will need to pass the MTTC 134 to earn the ZN endorsement.

## Can I use my early childhood bachelor's degree to add the ZN endorsement?

No, an early childhood or similar degree alone is not enough to add the ZN endorsement to a Michigan teaching certificate. You must complete an approved preparation program to be recommended for the ZN endorsement.

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### **I have an Early Childhood General and Special Education (ZS) endorsement on my Michigan teaching certificate. Do I have to upgrade to the new ZN endorsement?**

No, the ZS endorsement remains valid for early childhood general and special education placements. The ZS endorsement does not allow an individual to teach kindergarten. A teacher's ZS endorsement will be valid for as long as they maintain the certificate.

### **What if I want to teach in both early childhood and elementary education?**

You can enroll in both a ZN Early Childhood program and a ZO Pk-3 Elementary program and complete the requirements simultaneously with one student teaching internship. Check with your preparation program for options and pathways.

### **Do I have to add a general education endorsement with the Early Childhood General and Special Education (ZN) endorsement?**

No, the ZN can stand alone and does not need to be combined with another endorsement.

### **Can I add the ZN endorsement to a certificate that has a Middle Grades or High School endorsement?**

Yes. After completing an approved Michigan ZN preparation program and passing the MTTC, the ZN can be added to a valid certificate with any other endorsement.

### **Can I earn the ZN endorsement through an alternative route program?**

No, alternative route providers are not approved to offer the ZN endorsement.

### **Where can I find an approved Michigan ZN preparation program?**

You can find available programs at our [Directory of Educator Preparation Providers and Programs](#).

### **Where can I look for funding towards earning a ZN endorsement?**

You can find available funding options at our [Educator Workforce Grant Opportunities](#) page.

