

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE MAT IN ELEMENTARY  
EDUCATION TO MAT IN EARLY AND ELEMENTARY EDUCATION**

**Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors approve a change to the name of the Masters of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Elementary Education to Master of Art in Teaching (MAT) Early and Elementary Education, effective Fall, 2022.

**Background**

In current program, an elementary certification (for which our program is named) certifies a teacher to teach grades K-5 (all subjects) and 6-8 (non-departmentalized), with the option of adding on an early childhood (birth-age 8) endorsement. The early childhood endorsement can only be added to an elementary program and cannot stand alone at the undergraduate level for certification. Students with an MAT degree in Elementary Education, generally take positions as classroom teachers.

**Rationale**

The Michigan Department of Education has changed the parameters for teacher certification. In the revised structure, students can be certified birth-kindergarten, pre-kindergarten-third grade, third grade-sixth grade. The birth-kindergarten band covers years that do not fall under “elementary” (typically grades kindergarten-five), and thus it is necessary to signal this option in the program name.

**Approvals**

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Division of Teacher Education, the Dean of the College of Education and the Provost.