

***NYS Certification:  
Students with Disabilities***



**No. 19-10**

**April 2019**

Special education certification has undergone many changes in the past 20 years. Prior to 2004, the special education certificate was considered an ‘All Grades’ certificate, or K-12. Individuals with this certificate could fulfill any and all assignments related to special education, including special class assignments.

In 2004 the special education certificate was replaced by the certificate title of Students with Disabilities (SWD) and this SWD title was broken into four (4) grade level certificates:

SWD: Birth – Grade 2  
SWD: Grades 5 – 9

SWD: Grades 1 – 6  
SWD: Grades 7-12: Content Area.

The SWD Grades 5-9 certificate was further delineated into a generalist title (for non-departmentalized assignments) or a content-specific title. The SWD Grades 7-12 certificates were separated into content areas, requiring knowledge of a specific content area in addition to the knowledge base in special education.

In 2011 the SWD: Grades 5-9 and the SWD: Grades 7-12 content-specific certificate titles were eliminated and replaced with the SWD Grades 7-12 Generalist certificate, with the availability of content area extensions that could be attached to this certificate.

In 2018-19, additional changes were made to the SWD titles; state regulations were amended to allow for grade level extensions to existing SWD certificate titles.

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## Grade-Level Extensions

Current Certification	Teaching Experience Requirement	Teachers Choose One of the Following Requirements		Grade Extension to Current SWD Certificate
		Continuing Teacher & Leader Education (CTLE)	College Course	
<b>SWD Birth - Grade 2</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 <sup>st</sup> and/or 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on SWD at the elementary level.	Minimum of 3 credits of pedagogical course work focused on SWD at the elementary education level.	Grades 3-4
<b>SWD Grades 1 -6</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 <sup>st</sup> and/or 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on SWD at the early childhood level.	Minimum of 3 credits of pedagogical course work focused on SWD at the early childhood education level.	PK-K
	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 5 <sup>th</sup> and/or 6 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on SWD at the middle education level.	Minimum of 3 credits of pedagogical course work focused on SWD at the middle education level.	Grades 7-8
<b>SWD 7-12 Generalist or Content Specialist</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 7 <sup>th</sup> and/or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on SWD at the middle education level.	Minimum of 3 credits of pedagogical course work focused on SWD at the middle education level.	Grades 5-6
<b>SWD 5-9 Generalist or Content Specialist</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 8 <sup>th</sup> and/or 9 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on SWD at the adolescent education level AND 15 hours of acceptable CTLE in ELA OR 3 credits in ELA.	Minimum of 3 credits of pedagogical course work focused on SWD at the adolescent education level AND 15 hours of acceptable CTLE in ELA OR 3 credits in ELA.	Grades 10-12

For each of the grade level extensions, teaching experience is defined as at least 75% or more of the applicant's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in either of the two grade levels closest to the grade level extension during each of the three school years. Applicants for the grade level extension(s) use the state's [Verification of Paid Experience form for Classroom Teachers and Pupil Personnel Services Professionals: Professional and Permanent Certificates, Extensions, Limited Extensions, and Statements of Continued Eligibility](#) to fulfill this requirement.

New York State Teacher Centers offer state-approved CTLE courses that fulfill the requirement for grade level extensions. Interested parties can contact the director of the Rome Teacher Center at [jlattimoretc@gmail.com](mailto:jlattimoretc@gmail.com) for information on availability of these courses across the state.

## Statements of Continued Eligibility and Limited Content Area Extensions

In addition to grade level flexibility, the State Education Department also adopted regulations to increase the flexibility of select Students with Disabilities certificates to teach special classes. The SWD titles eligible for this flexibility include: SWD 7-12 Generalist, SWD 7-12 Content Specialist, SWD 5-9 Generalist, SWD 5-9 Content Specialist, and Special Education K-12.

- a. **Statement of Continued Eligibility or SOCE:** The SOCE is available to special education teachers with any of the identified certificate titles who will teach a special class and have at least three years of satisfactory full-time teaching experience in grades 7-12 on or before July 1, 2019, during which time they were considered Highly Qualified by a school district in one or more subject areas using the High, Objective, State Standard of Evaluation or HOUSSE rubric (from NCLB).
- b. **Limited Content Area Extension:** The limited extension is available to special education teachers with any of the identified certificate titles who will teach a special class but do not qualify for the SOCE. The limited extension enables these teachers to teach special classes for five years (with additional 5-year renewal option) while they complete 18 credits required for a content area extension in the subject areas (biology, chemistry, earth science, ELA, mathematics, physics, and social studies) they teach within the special class.

Limited extensions can be obtained by:

- ❖ having at least two years of satisfactory full-time teaching experience with students with disabilities in grades 7-12 (must have valid SWD 7-12 Generalist certificate) and previous designation as Highly Qualified by a district in the subject area using the HOUSSE rubric for NCLB purposes prior to July 1, 2019; or
- ❖ passing the NYS Content Specialty Test in the subject area; or
- ❖ passing an industry accepted exam in the subject area; or
- ❖ completing at least 9 credits of course work in the subject area; or
- ❖ completing at least 45 CTLE hours in the subject area and either:
  - having at least two years of satisfactory full-time teaching experience with students with disabilities in grades 7-12 in the subject area, or
  - being mentored for at least one year by a teacher in the school or school district who holds a professional or permanent certificate in the subject area.

Current special education teachers may possess any of the certificate titles listed above. Due to the variety of special education certificates held by current teachers and the varied teaching assignments they fulfilled, SED issued guidance for the appropriate assignments for special education teachers.

- Attachment A is SED's guidance on 'Special Education Certificate Titles and Teaching Assignment'
- Attachment B is SED's 'Examples of Reporting Primary and Special Education Instructors in Course Instructor Assignment' guidance.
- Attachment C is SED's Search Requirements Examples

# ATTACHMENT A

Office of Teaching Initiatives

As of May 25, 2011

Special Education Certificate Titles and Teaching Assignment								
		Special Education Teaching Assignments						
Certificate Title	Grade Level (where instruction occurs)	(Preschool) Itinerant teacher	Consultant Teacher	Resource Room Teacher	Integrated Co-Teaching Services	Special Class with All Students under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher (Self-contained classroom)	
K-12 Special Education Issued prior to 2/2/04	Pre K - Grade 12	√	√	√	√	√	√ see footnote #1	
K-12 Special Education with Content Area Extension	Pre K - Grade 12	√	√	√	√	√	Grades Pre K-12 in Content Area of Extension <sup>3</sup>	
Students with Disabilities Birth - Grade 2	Early Intervention, Preschool, Kindergarten - Grade 2	√	√	√	√	√	Birth - Grade 2	
Students with Disabilities Grades 1-6	Grades 1-6		√	√	√	√	Grades 1-6	
Students with Disabilities Grades 5-9 Generalist	Grades 5-9		√	√	√	√	Grades 5-9 Common Branch Subjects	
Students with Disabilities Grades 5-9 Generalist with Content Area Extension	Grades 5-9		√	√	√	√	Grades 5-9 Content Area of Extension <sup>3</sup>	
Students with Disabilities Grades 5-9 Content Specialist	Grades 5-9		√	√	√	√	Grades 5-9 Content Area of Certificate <sup>1,2</sup>	
Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 - Content Specialist	Grades 7-12		√	√	√	√	Grades 7-12 Content Area of Certificate(s) <sup>1,2</sup>	
Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 Generalist	Grades 7-12		√	√	√	√		
Students with Disabilities Grades 7-12 Generalist with Content Area Extension	Grades 7-12		√	√	√	√	Grades 7-12 in Content Area of Extension(s) <sup>3</sup>	

**1** If the teacher holding this certificate meets the federal definition of highly qualified for a core academic subject, he or she may teach that academic area at the grade level of his or her certificate to students in a special class. The department recommends collaboration between the special education teacher and the general education teacher of the content area.

**2** A teacher holding one of the SWD Content Specialist certificate is also qualified for the comparable general education certificate, but must apply for and hold the general education certificate to teach the general education assignment.

**3** The academic area extension to SWD certification requires . . .

- 1) 18 semester hours in the content area of the extension
- 2) the Content Specialty Test in the subject of the Extension
- 3) Collaboration with a certified general education content specialist weekly
- 4) Co-teaching with a certified general education content specialist monthly

Note: For teachers employed by a school enumerated in Article 81, 85, 87, 88 or 89 of the Education Law or a special act school district as defined in Subdivision 8 of Section 4001 of the Education Law, that cannot meet the requirements of this subdivision, the school shall submit an alternate plan to the NYSED.

## ATTACHMENT B

### Examples for Reporting Primary and Special Education Instructors in Course Instructor Assignment

Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Certification Required	
General Education Classroom	Specified Content Area- 7-12 (i.e. Math, ELA, Social Studies, etc.)	Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 or 5-9*</li> </ul>	
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Special Class Teacher (Self-Contained Classroom)	Specified Content Area- 7-12 (i.e. Math, ELA, Social Studies, etc.)	The Primary Teacher and Special Education Teacher are the same teacher. Both indicators must be indicated with a Y.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 and SWD 7-12; or</li> <li>Content area 5-9* and SWD 5-9; or</li> <li>SWD (content area) 7-12; or</li> <li>SWD (content area) 5-9* ; or</li> <li>Certificate in SWD Generalist 7-12 and content area 7-12 extension; or</li> <li>SWD Generalist 5-9 and content area 5-9 extension*; or</li> <li>K-12 Special Education</li> </ul>
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Co-Teaching (both teachers are general education teachers) No students that require a SWD teacher	Specified Content Area- 7-12 (i.e. Math, ELA, Social Studies, etc.)	Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 or 5-9*</li> </ul>
		Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 or 5-9*</li> </ul>
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Co-Teaching		Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 or 5-9*</li> </ul>
			Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content area 7-12 and SWD 7-12; or Generalist 7-12; or</li> </ul>

# ATTACHMENT C

## Search Certification Requirements

"Search Certification Requirements" is an online search feature that allows you to identify the specific requirements you must meet for any given certificate. Please make your selections and click search.

**Search Certification Requirements**

Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below

Select an <b>Area of Interest</b>	Classroom Teacher Extensions	▼
Select a <b>Subject Area</b>	Mathematics	▼
Select a <b>Grade Level</b>	Adolescent - Grades 7-12	▼
Select a <b>Title</b>	Students With Disabilities - Mathematics (Grades 7-12 )	▼
Select a <b>Type of Certificate</b>	Professional Ext/Anno	▼

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**Search Certification Requirements**

Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below

Select an <b>Area of Interest</b>	Classroom Teacher Extensions	▼
Select a <b>Subject Area</b>	Students With Disabilities	▼
Select a <b>Grade Level</b>	Grades 3-4	▼
Select a <b>Title</b>	Students With Disabilities (Grades 3-4) Extension	▼
Select a <b>Type of Certificate</b>	Professional Ext/Anno	▼

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**Search Certification Requirements**

Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below

Select an <b>Area of Interest</b>	Statements of Continued Eligibility and Limited Extensions	▼
Select a <b>Subject Area</b>	Mathematics	▼
Select a <b>Grade Level</b>	Adolescent - Grades 7-12	▼
Select a <b>Title</b>	Mathematics - Special Class	▼
Select a <b>Type of Certificate</b>	SOCE	▼