

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



No. 19-18 Updated and Replaces 19-10

December 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 area, 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. In the fall of 2019, SED more clearly defined the appropriate credentials for special education teachers assigned to special classes: the Statement of Continued Eligibility and the Limited Content Area Extension.

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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	
SWD Birth - Grade 2	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 st and/or 2 nd 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
SWD Grades 1 -6	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 st and/or 2 nd 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 th and/or 6 th 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
SWD 7-12 Generalist or Content Specialist	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 7 th and/or 8 th 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
SWD 5-9 Generalist or Content Specialist	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 8 th and/or 9 th 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 jlattimorertc@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.

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, 2020, 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).

To obtain the SOCE, the special education teacher needs to apply PRIOR to June 30, 2020 and meet all the requirements which include a submitted application in TEACH, the HOUSSE rubric and Employment Verification form completed by the district, and depending upon the special education certificate held by the teacher, may include some or all of the following:

- Being fingerprinted;
- Child Abuse Identification and Reporting workshop;
- School Violence Intervention and Prevention workshop;
- Autism workshop.

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.

The attachments included in this Fact Sheet represent the evolution of SED guidance as to the assignment of special education teachers and the credentials appropriate for these assignments.

- Attachment A, Special Education Teaching Assignments and Certification, is the most current guidance from the state – released December 2019. Additional information related to the SOCE and Limited Extension is located at <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/special-education-teacher-soce.html>
- Attachment B, ‘Special Education Certificate Titles and Teaching Assignment’ chart was SED’s guidance from 2011.
- Attachment C, ‘Examples of Reporting Primary and Special Education Instructors in Course Instructor Assignment’ was SED’s guidance from 2017 through 2019.
- Attachment D is SED’s Search Requirements page with examples of how to search the requirements for the SOCE and/or Limited Extension.

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ATTACHMENT A
Special Education Teaching Assignments and Certification

The following table shows the certification required for various types of special education teaching assignments. The types of teaching assignments are described on the [Continuum of Special Education Services for School-Age Students with Disabilities webpage](#). Certification requirements are available on the [Search Certification Requirements webpage](#).

Effective July 1, 2020, all special education teachers who teach a subject area in a special class (self-contained class) with some or no students under alternate assessment in grades 7-12 must be certified in the subject area, including Permanent Special Education certificate holders. They could earn subject area certification through a [limited extension](#), [SOCE](#), [subject area extension](#), or [additional certificate](#).

Please note that special education teachers can only teach students who are in the grade levels in which their certificate is valid, with the exception of teachers who teach a [special class where all students are under alternate assessment](#).

For questions about teaching assignments that are not answered in the following table, please contact the Office of Special Education at speced@nysed.gov. For questions about certification requirements, please contact the Office of Teaching Initiatives at tcert@nysed.gov.

Special Education Certification	Special Education Teaching Assignment:			
	Preschool Itinerant Teacher	Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher	Special Class Teacher – Some or No Students Under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment
SWD (Birth-Grade 2) only	Yes	Birth-Grade 2	Birth-Grade 2	All grades
SWD (Birth-Grade 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 3-4) 	Yes	Birth-Grade 4	Birth-Grade 4	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) only	No	Grades 1-6	Grades 1-6	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (PK-K) 	Yes	PK-Grade 6	PK-Grade 6	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 7-8) 	No	Grades 1-8	Grades 1-6*	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist only	No	Grades 5-9	Grades 5-6*	All grades

Special Education Certification	Special Education Teaching Assignment:			
	Preschool Itinerant Teacher	Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher	Special Class Teacher – Some or No Students Under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 10-12) 	No	Grades 5-12	Grades 5-6*	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a subject area certificate or extension in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught 	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-9 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held* 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a limited extension or statement of continued eligibility in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught (only valid in a special class) 	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held* 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist only	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-9 in the subject area of the content specialty* 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 10-12) 	No	Grades 5-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty* 	All grades

Special Education Certification	Special Education Teaching Assignment:			
	Preschool Itinerant Teacher	Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher	Special Class Teacher – Some or No Students Under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a subject area limited extension or statement of continued eligibility in grades 7-12 and the subject area to be taught (only valid in a special class) 	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 5-6 • Grades 7-9 in the subject area of content specialty • Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held* 	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) only	No	Grades 7-12	Not eligible; does not hold content area certification*	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 5-6) 	No	Grades 5-12	Grades 5-6*	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a subject area certificate, extension, limited extension, or statement of continued eligibility in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught 	No	Grades 7-12	Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held*	All grades
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist only	No	Grades 7-12	Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty*	All grades
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 5-6) 	No	Grades 5-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 5-6 • Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty* 	All grades

Special Education Certification	Special Education Teaching Assignment:			
	Preschool Itinerant Teacher	Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher	Special Class Teacher – Some or No Students Under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a subject area limited extension or statement of continued eligibility in grades 7-12 and the subject area to be taught 	No	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty Grades 7-12 in the subject area of certificate held* 	All grades
Permanent Special Education only	Yes	Birth-Grade 12	Birth-Grade 6*	All grades
Permanent Special Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a subject area certificate, extension, limited extension, or statement of continued eligibility in grades 7-12 and the subject area to be taught 	Yes	Birth-Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Birth-Grade 6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of certificate held* 	All grades

* Through June 30, 2020, special education teachers may teach a particular subject area in a special class in grades 7-12 for which they do not hold subject area certification **only if** they: 1) hold a certificate at the appropriate grade/developmental level, and 2) would be considered Highly Qualified in the subject area throughout their teaching assignment in a special class through passing a [HOUSSE rubric](#). The HOUSSE rubric completed by the school district for this purpose can also be used for the limited extension and statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) application.

Severe or Multiple Disabilities Annotation

Special education teachers who hold the Severe or Multiple Disabilities Annotation can teach a special class where all students are under alternative assessment and all students have severe cognitive disabilities. Students can be at any developmental level (birth-grade 12).

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"> Content area 7-12 or 5-9* 	
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"> Content area 7-12 and SWD 7-12; or Content area 5-9* and SWD 5-9; or SWD (content area) 7-12; or SWD (content area) 5-9* ; or Certificate in SWD Generalist 7-12 and content area 7-12 extension; or SWD Generalist 5-9 and content area 5-9 extension*; or K-12 Special Education
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"> Content area 7-12 or 5-9*
		Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content area 7-12 or 5-9*
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Co-Teaching		Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content area 7-12 or 5-9*
			Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content area 7-12 and SWD 7-12; or Generalist 7-12; or

Includes students that require a SWD teacher	Specified Content Area- 7-12 (i.e. Math, ELA, Social Studies, etc.)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content area 5-9* and SWD 5-9; or • SWD (content area) 7-12; or • SWD (content area) 5-9* ; or • SWD Generalist 7-12 and content area 7-12 Extension; or • SWD Generalist 5-9 and content area 5-9 extension*; or • K-12 Special Education; or • SWD Generalist 7-12; or • SWD 5-9 Generalist* <p>Any teacher that holds a SWD 7-12 certificate and the content area certificate is appropriately certified to teach the course in this scenario.</p>
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher		Certification Required
General Education Classroom	Elementary- 1-6 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.)	Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood Education (Common Branch): or • Early Childhood B – Grade 2; or • 5-9 Generalist*
Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Self-Contained Classroom	Elementary- 1-6 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, 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"> • K-12 Special Education; or • SWD (Birth- Grade 2)*; or • SWD (Grades 1-6); or • SWD Generalist (Grades 5-9)*; or • SWD (content area) 5-9

Classroom Scenario	Course	Primary Teacher	Special Ed Teacher	Certification Required
Co-Teaching	Elementary- 1-6 (i.e. 1, 2, 3, 4, etc.)	Y		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Childhood Education (Common Branch, N-6, K-6, PreK - 6); or Early Childhood, B-Grade 2*; or 5-9 Generalist*
			Y	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> K-12 Special Education; or SWD (Birth- Grade 2)*- where grade appropriate; or
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWD (Grades 1-6); or SWD Generalist (Grades 5-9)**; or SWD (content area) 5-9*

*** These teachers must be certified for the grade level they are teaching.**

A special class is a class consisting of students with disabilities who have been grouped together because of similar individual needs so that they can receive specially designed instruction. In special classes, the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction is adapted to ensure the student has access to the general curriculum and the opportunity to meet the educational standards that apply to all students. Special Class Services serve students with disabilities whose needs cannot be met within a general education class, even with the use of supplementary aids and services.

4/21/2017

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 **Area of Interest**

Select a **Subject Area**

Select a **Grade Level**

Select a **Title**

Select a **Type of Certificate**

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.

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Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below

Select an **Area of Interest**

Select a **Subject Area**

Select a **Grade Level**

Select a **Title**

Select a **Type of Certificate**

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.

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Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns below

Select an **Area of Interest**

Select a **Subject Area**

Select a **Grade Level**

Select a **Title**

Select a **Type of Certificate**