

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF

Qualifications/Assignment of Special Education Teachers

Any teacher assigned to serve students with disabilities shall possess an appropriate credential or other authorization that specifically authorizes him/her to teach students with that primary disability within the program placement recommended in the students' individualized education programs (IEP). (5 CCR 80046.5, 80048.7)

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4113 - Assignment)

(cf. 6159 - Individualized Education Program)

(cf. 6164.4 - Identification and Evaluation of Individuals for Special Education)

Special education teachers who teach core academic subjects shall possess the qualifications required by the No Child Left Behind Act. (5 CCR 6100-6126; 20 USC 1401, 6319, 7801; 34 CFR 200.55-200.57, 300.18)

(cf. 4112.24 - Teacher Qualifications Under the No Child Left Behind Act)

The Superintendent or designee may request the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue a special education limited assignment teaching permit to authorize a qualified special education teacher, with his/her written consent, to serve outside the specialty area of his/her credential. In so doing, the district shall submit a Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators that satisfies the requirements of 5 CCR 80026. If the teacher has not yet obtained permanent status, the Superintendent or designee shall assign one or more experienced educators in the special education subject area(s) of the permit, who have at least three years of full-time teaching experience in each of the subject area(s) of the permit, to provide guidance and assistance to the permit holder. (5 CCR 80027.1)

The district may employ a person with an appropriate district internship credential to provide classroom instruction to students with disabilities, provided he/she has met the subject matter requirement specified in Education Code 44325 and receives guidance, supervision, and professional development through an established district internship program. (Education Code 44325, 44326, 44830.3)

(cf. 4112.21 - Interns)

Resource Specialists

The district's resource specialist program shall provide, but not be limited to: (Education Code 56362)

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1. Resource specialist(s) to provide instruction and services for students whose needs have been identified in their IEPs and who are assigned to regular classroom teachers for a majority of the school day

A student shall not be enrolled in a resource specialist program for a majority of a school day without approval by the student's IEP team.

2. Information and assistance for students with disabilities and their parents/guardians
3. Consultation, resource information, and material regarding students with disabilities to their parents/guardians and regular education staff members
4. Coordination of special education services with the regular school program for each student with disabilities enrolled in the resource specialist program
5. Monitoring of student progress on a regular basis, participation in the review and revision of IEPs as appropriate, and referral of students who do not demonstrate sufficient progress to the IEP team
6. At the secondary school level, emphasis on academic achievement, career and vocational development, and preparation for adult life

Resource specialists shall not simultaneously be assigned to serve as resource specialists and to teach regular classes. (Education Code 56362)

The district's resource specialist program shall be under the direction of a resource specialist who possesses the qualifications specified in Education Code 56362 and 5 CCR 80070.8. (Education Code 56362)

Teachers of Students with Autism

A teacher may be assigned to provide instruction to students with autism if he/she meets the qualifications described above in the section entitled "Qualifications/Assignment of Special Education Teachers."

***Note: Education Code 44265.1 allows districts to assign a teacher whose credential authorizes instruction to students with mild and moderate disabilities to provide instruction to students with autism under the conditions described below. AB 2160 (Ch. 134, Statutes of 2010) amended Education Code 44265.1 to extend the operative date of this provision until October 1, 2013 and to extend its applicability to holders of clear education specialist credentials as well as preliminary credentials. Education Code 44265.2 provides similar flexibility to teachers of

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students with autism age 3-4, except that the service and coursework referenced in items #1 and #2 below must be appropriate for that age level. However, such flexibility may be temporary since Education Code 44265.2 will become inoperative on August 31, 2011, unless subsequent legislation is enacted.***

In addition, a teacher whose education specialist credential or other previously issued credential authorizes him/her to provide instruction to students with mild and moderate disabilities may be assigned to provide instruction to students with autism, provided that the teacher consents to the assignment and satisfies either of the following criteria prior to the assignment: (Education Code 44265.1)

1. He/she has provided full-time instruction for at least one year prior to September 1, 2007, in a special education program that serves students with autism in accordance with their IEP and received a favorable evaluation or recommendation from the district or school to teach students with autism.
2. He/she has completed a minimum of three semester units of coursework in the subject of autism offered by a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

(cf. 5148.3 - Preschool/Early Childhood Education)

The Superintendent or designee shall report teacher assignments under the criteria specified in items #1 and #2 above to the county office of education as part of the annual assignment monitoring pursuant to Education Code 44258.9. (Education Code 44265.1)

Verification of experience or coursework for any teacher of autistic students shall be maintained on file in the district or school office. (Education Code 44265.1, 44265.2)

Caseloads

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that caseloads for special education teachers are within the maximum caseloads established by law, the collective bargaining agreement, and/or the comprehensive plan of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) in which the district participates.

(cf. 0430 - Comprehensive Local Plan for Special Education)
(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)
(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

No resource specialist shall have a caseload which exceeds 28 students. As necessary and with the agreement of the resource specialist, the Board may request a waiver from the State Board of Education to increase the caseload to no more than 32 students, provided that an individual

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resource specialist does not have a caseload exceeding 28 students for more than two school years and has the assistance of an instructional aide at least five hours daily during the period of the waiver. (Education Code 56362, 56362.1; 5 CCR 3100)

(cf. 1431 - Waivers)

The average caseload for language, speech, and hearing specialists shall not exceed 55 cases unless otherwise specified and reasons stated in the SELPA plan. The maximum caseload for speech and language specialists exclusively serving children with disabilities age 3-5 shall not exceed 40. (Education Code 56363.3, 56441.7)

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE*

44250-44279 *Credentials, especially:*

44256 *Credential types, specialist instruction*

44258.9 *Assignment monitoring*

44265-44265.99 *Special education credential*

44325-44328 *District interns*

44830.3 *District interns, supervision and professional development*

56000-56865 *Special education, especially:*

56195.8 *Adoption of policies*

56361 *Program options*

56362-56362.5 *Resource specialist program*

56363.3 *Maximum caseload; language, speech, and hearing specialists*

56441.7 *Maximum caseload; language, speech, and hearing specialists serving children ages 3-5*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

3051.1 *Language, speech and hearing development and remediation; appropriate credential*

3100 *Waivers of maximum caseload for resource specialists*

6100-6126 *Teacher qualifications, No Child Left Behind Act*

80021 *Short-term staffing permit*

80021.1 *Provisional internship permit*

80025.4 *Substitute teaching, special education*

80026 *Declaration of need for fully qualified educators*

80027.1 *Special education limited assignment teaching permit*

80046.1 *Adapted physical education specialist*

80046.5 *Credential holders authorized to serve students with disabilities*

80047-80047.9 *Credentials to provide instructional services to students with disabilities*

80048-80048.9.3 *Credential requirements and authorizations*

80070.1-80070.8 *Resource specialist certificate of competence*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1400-1482 *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, especially:*

1401 *Definition of highly qualified special education teacher*

6319 *Highly qualified teachers*

7801 *Definitions, highly qualified teacher*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

200.55-200.57 *Highly qualified teachers*

300.8 *Definition of autism*

300.18 *Highly qualified special education teachers*

300.156 *Special education personnel requirements*

SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF (Continued)

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Handbook on Developing and Implementing Early Childhood Special Education Programs and Services, 2001

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING CODED CORRESPONDENCE

10-15 Alternative Route to Provide Special Education Services to Students with Autism, September 7, 2010

10-13 Approval of Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Special Education Services Credentials, July 21, 2010

10-12 Approval of Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Special Education Teaching Credentials Requirements, July 21, 2010

09-16 Approval of Additions to Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to Added Authorizations in Special Education, July 23, 2009

09-15 Approval of Amendments to Title 5 Regulations Pertaining to General and Special Education Limited Assignment Teaching Permits, July 23, 2009

08-13 Alternative Route to Provide Special Education Services to Students with Autism Ages Three and 4, October 9, 2008

COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS

Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credential Program Standards, September 2010

WEB SITES

California Association of Resource Specialists and Special Education Teachers: <http://www.carsplus.org>

California Department of Education, Special Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se>

California Speech-Language-Hearing Association: <http://www.csha.org>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>

Regulation

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VACAVILLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Vacaville, California