

§89.1131 Qualifications of Special Education, Related Services, and Paraprofessional Personnel

Frequently Asked Questions

Certification Requirements

1. What are the requirements for personnel involved in the provision of special education and related services?

All personnel that provide special education and related services must be certified, endorsed, or licensed in their area of assignment

2. Are there any additional requirements other than a special education certificate or endorsement?

Persons assigned to provide speech therapy instructional services must have a valid Texas Education Agency (TEA) certificate in speech and hearing therapy or speech and language therapy, or a state license as a speech/language pathologist.

Teachers who have only a special education endorsement for early childhood education may only be assigned to programs serving students through the 6th grade.

Teachers who have only a generic secondary special education certificate may be assigned to teach grades 6-12 only.

Teachers certified in the education of students with visual impairments must be available to students with visual impairments, including deaf-blindness. When assigned full-time or part-time to students with visual impairments, including deaf-blindness, from birth through age two, teachers must be certified in the education of students with visual impairments.

Teachers certified in the education of students with auditory impairments must be available to students with auditory impairments, including deaf-blindness. When assigned full-time or part-time to students with auditory impairments, including deaf-blindness, from birth through age two, teachers must be certified in the education of students with auditory impairments.

Physical education may be provided by the following personnel as specified in the student's IEP: special education instructional or related services personnel who have the necessary skills and knowledge as documented by in-service records, evidence of attendance at seminars or workshops, college transcripts, or other appropriate evidence; physical education teachers; occupational therapists; physical therapists; or occupational therapy or physical therapy assistants working under supervision in accordance with professional standards.

3. What are the requirements for paraprofessional personnel?

Paraprofessional personnel must be certified and may be assigned to work with students, general and special education teachers, and related service personnel.

4. What are the requirements for interpreters for deaf and hard of hearing students?

Interpreting services for deaf and hard of hearing students must be provided by certified personnel. An interpreter may be certified by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) or the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf (RID). A person who is a certified member of the RID meets the requirements for certification. Personnel providing transcription services such as communication access real-time translation (CART), C-Print, or TypeWell must document appropriate training and demonstrate appropriate skills.