

Qualifications/Assignment of Special Education Teachers

Any teacher assigned to serve students with disabilities shall possess an appropriate credential or other authorization issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) that specifically authorizes them to teach students with the primary disability within the program placement recommended in the student's individualized education program (IEP). (5 CCR 80046.1-80048.9.4)

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

The Superintendent or designee may request that the CTC issue a special education limited assignment teaching permit that authorizes a qualified special education teacher, with their written consent, to serve outside the specialty area of their credential. 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 80026, 80027.1)

As needed, the district may apply to the CTC for an emergency permit for resource specialist services pursuant to 5 CCR 80023.2 and 80024.3.1.

When requesting either a limited assignment teaching permit or an emergency resource specialist permit, the Superintendent or designee shall submit a Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators that satisfies the requirements of 5 CCR 80026 and has been approved by the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. (5 CCR 80026)

If there is a need to immediately fill a classroom vacancy or a suitable credentialed teacher cannot be found after a diligent search, the Superintendent or designee may, as appropriate, apply to the CTC for a short-term staff permit pursuant to 5 CCR 80021, a provisional internship permit pursuant to 5 CCR 80021.1, or, as a last resort, a credential waiver.

Individuals providing related services to students with disabilities, including developmental, corrective, and other supportive and related services, shall meet the applicable qualifications specified in 5 CCR 3051-3051.24. (5 CCR 3051; 34 CFR 300.34, 300.156)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide ongoing professional development as needed to assist special education staff in updating and improving their knowledge and skills.

Whenever a candidate for a clear education specialist credential is employed by the district, the Superintendent or designee shall, within 60 days of employment, collaborate with the candidate and, as applicable, with the college or university to develop an individualized induction plan including supported induction and job-related course of advanced preparation. (5 CCR 80048.8.1)

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.