

# Special Education Teacher

Special Education is instruction specifically designed to meet the unique needs of an educationally disabled child aged three to 21 who has been identified and evaluated by a school district and determined to be mentally retarded, hearing impaired, speech or language impaired or both, visually impaired including blindness, seriously emotionally disturbed, orthopedically impaired, otherwise severely health impaired, deaf-blind, multi-disabled, traumatic brain injured, autistic, or as having specific learning disabilities. Teachers working with children requiring more extensive knowledge and skills must obtain a categorical endorsement in emotional or behavioral problems, hearing impairment, mental retardation, physical disabilities, visual disabilities, or learning disabilities.

## Legislation

Statute: NH RSA 186  
 Administrative Rules: Chapter Ed 507.39

## Certification Requirements

- Submit application for certification and non-refundable application fee
- Minimum of a Bachelor’s degree
- General special education teachers are certified as either or both of the following:
  1. Early childhood general special education teacher for children from birth up to age eight
  2. Elementary/secondary general special education teacher for children age five up to age 21
- Alternative methods of qualification for teaching certification:
  - Alternative 1:* Completion of an approved program of professional preparation in special education
  - Alternative 2:* Completion of a comparable program outside of New Hampshire
  - Alternative 3:* Qualification based on Demonstrated Competencies and Equivalent Experiences, requiring both written examination and oral review
  - Alternative 4:* Individualized Professional Development Plan (New Hampshire residency is required)

Regulatory Agency
<p><b>Bureau of Credentialing</b>                      Division of Program Support                      New Hampshire Department of Education                      101 Pleasant Street                      Concord, New Hampshire 03301</p> <p><i>phone</i> (603) 271-4196  <i>fax</i> (603) 271-4134  <i>web</i> &lt;<a href="http://www.education.nh.gov/certification/">www.education.nh.gov/certification/</a>&gt;  <i>contact</i> Virginia Clifford, Administrator  <i>e-mail</i> virginia.clifford@doe.nh.gov</p>

## Examination

Initial certification requires passing the PRAXIS I pre-professional skills test (PPST) and PRAXIS II, if applicable. The State Board has approved a composite score option for PRAXIS I. Candidates must have an overall score of 518 or higher and a minimum passing score of 172 for Reading; 170 for Writing; and 170 for Mathematics. PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II exemptions are allowed for educators with either a Master’s degree or higher, or who have seven or more years of educational experience under a credential issued by another state.

## Continuing Education

Staff development activities totaling 75 clock hours (or alternative to clock hours) in the school district and/or school administrative unit staff development plan during the three-year certification period plus another 30 hours for each additional endorsement

Fees	
Statement of eligibility, Alternative 4 . . . . .	\$50.00
Three-year certificate . . . . .	\$130.00
Three-year renewal. . . . .	\$130.00
Competency review, Alternative 3 . . . . .	\$300.00
Additional endorsements, per endorsement. . . . .	\$20.00
Duplicate credential . . . . .	\$20.00
Late filing fee . . . . .	\$50.00
<i>Exam fees are set by the exam administrator, Educational Testing Service (ETS)</i>	

## Special Education Teacher (continued)

### Reciprocity

Permitted with over 41 states according to the provisions of the Interstate Contract

### Active Licenses

Not provided

### Related Training

Special Education and Teaching, Various Specialties

### O\*Net Codes

25-2052.00	Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School;
25-2053.00	Special Education Teachers, Middle School;
25-2054.00	Special Education Teachers, Secondary School;
25-2059.00	Special Education Teacher, All Other

### Additional Information Sources

ETS-The Praxis Series

web <[www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements](http://www.ets.org/praxis/nh/requirements)>

National Association of Special Education Teachers

web <[www.naset.org](http://www.naset.org)>