

## 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 intellectually impaired, 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. Teacher-Special Education Teacher qualifies a teacher to teach children with disabilities who are able to benefit from general and special education but do not require the knowledge and skills of a special educator with a categorical endorsement; and whose placement is in general education for more than 50 percent of the day. Teachers working with children requiring more extensive knowledge and skills must obtain a categorical endorsement in emotional or behavioral disabilities, hearing impairment, intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, visual disabilities, or learning disabilities.

### Legislation

Statute: NH RSA 186  
Administrative Rules: Chapter Ed 500

### Certification Requirements

- Qualify through one of the available Alternative Pathways for licensure described on NH Department of Education webpage.
- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree
- Special education teachers are licensed as either or both of the following:
  1. Early childhood special education teacher for children from birth up to age eight
  2. Elementary/secondary special education teacher for children age five up to age 21

There are multiple levels of credentials, each with varying requirements:

- **Intern Authorization**
  - Have met the requirements for a Statement of Eligibility
  - Currently be employed in the field of education in a New Hampshire public or non-public school
  - Intern authorizations are granted for the duration of the individualized professional development plan
  - Educators who hold a valid intern authorization receive a beginning educator license after the Bureau approves the required report of completion under the individualized professional development plan
- **Beginning Educator License**
  - Beginning educator licenses are issued for an initial period of three years
  - Upon completion of three years of full-time educator experience while maintaining a valid credential, a beginning educator is qualified for an experienced educator license only if the educator is determined to be "effective" or better under the local supervision and evaluation system for at least two consecutive years.
  - An experienced educator credential shall be issued for three years

### Regulatory Agency

#### Bureau of Credentialing

Division of Educator Support and Higher Education  
New Hampshire Department of Education  
101 Pleasant Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

*phone* (603) 271-2409

*fax* (603) 271-4134

*web* <[www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-support-and-higher-education/bureau-of-credentialing](http://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-support-and-higher-education/bureau-of-credentialing)>

*contact* Administrator

*e-mail* [cert.info@doe.nh.gov](mailto:cert.info@doe.nh.gov)

# Special Education Teacher (continued)

- **Experienced Educator License**

- Upon completion of three years of full-time educator experience while maintaining a valid credential, a beginning educator is qualified for an experienced educator license only if the educator is determined to be “effective” or better under the local supervision and evaluation system for at least two consecutive years.
- An experienced educator credential shall be issued for three years

**Examination**

Applicants may be required to take the Praxis test and pass with the minimum qualifying score for New Hampshire. For more information please visit the Bureau of Credentialing website.

**Continuing Education**

Staff development activities totaling 45 Professional Education continuing education units and 30 continuing education units per endorsement during the three-year licensure period.

**Reciprocity**

Permitted in accordance with the NASDTEC Interstate Contract

**Active Licenses**

Not provided

**Related Training**

Special Education and Teaching, Various Specialties

**Fees**

Three-year licensure . . . . .	\$120.00
Three-year renewal. . . . .	\$120.00

*Additional fees vary by pathway for licensure and number of endorsements applied for.*

*Exam fees are set by each testing company.*

**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**

National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)  
<[www.nasdtec.org](http://www.nasdtec.org)>

National Association of Special Education Teachers  
<[www.naset.org](http://www.naset.org)>