



Federal Professional Qualification Requirements - ESSA

ESSA requires SEAs and LEAs to ensure that teachers meet state certification requirements. *ESSA Sections 1111(g)(2)(J), 1112(c)(6)*



Traditional Georgia LEAs

Georgia law authorizes GaPSC to establish certification requirements. Special Education teachers **MUST** follow all GaPSC certification requirements and State Board of Education rules.

O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-200, 20-2-984, GaPSC Rules



Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs Special Education Teacher Does Not Issue Grades

In compliance with Georgia State Board Rule, special education teachers who do NOT issue grades **MUST** hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.)

AND

MUST have a clearance certificate.

O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80, 20-2-200, 20-2-211.1, 20-2-2065, GaPSC Rules, SBOE Rules



Charter & Strategic Waiver LEAs Special Education Teacher Issues Grades

In compliance with Georgia State Board Rule, special education teachers who issue grades **MUST** hold GaPSC special education certification aligned with teaching assignment (general, adapted, visual impairment, etc.)

AND

MUST hold content certification for the subject and grade level bands for which the teacher is assigned (K-5), (4-8), (6-12) in accordance with the LEA's PQ Requirements.

AND

MUST have a clearance certificate.

O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-80, 20-2-200, 20-2-211.1, 20-2-2065, GaPSC Rules, SBOE Rules



SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS WHO HOLD A GAPSC ISSUED CERTIFICATE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION NOT SUPPORTED BY TEST OR COURSEWORK MAY NOT MEET GEORGIA ESSA PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

WHO DO LEAS CALL WITH QUESTIONS ABOUT EDUCATOR QUALIFICATIONS?

OUT-OF-FIELD & PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

GaDOE Staff, professionalqualifications@doe.k12.ga.us

CERTIFICATION:

GaPSC Portal, mail@gapsc.com

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

GaDOE Special Education Staff, Assigned District Liaisons

CHARTER & STRATEGIC WAIVER QUESTIONS:

Policy Division Staff, flexibility@gadoe.k12.ga.us

ESSA In-Field Reporting

GaDOE will use GaPSC in-field rules to determine ESSA In-Field qualifications for special education teachers that align with each teacher's teaching assignment for special education and content. 'Out-of-Field' will be reported for the entirety of the school year using Certification Records, 2 CPI, 2 FTE, and Student Class data collections cycles.

20 Day Notifications for Special Education Teachers

Does not issue grades – notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold special education certification
Issues grades – notifications must be disseminated if the teacher does not hold special education certification and/or content certification in accordance with the LEA's Professional Qualification requirements.