Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement
Special Education Teacher Professional Qualifications/ESSA In-Field

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.

Special Education Teachers who hold a GAPSC issued 'W', 'N', or "SI" certificate in Special Education may NOT meet Georgia ESSA Professional Qualification requirements.

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) and in accordance with the students’ IEPs AND MUST have a clearance certificate.

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, all three CPI and Student Class data collections cycles and Student Record.

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 for the subject area(s) and grade level band(s) in which the teacher issues grades

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