



### 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) and in accordance with the students' IEPs

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*

Will PQ mandate specific service delivery models/personnel supports?

Alternative Placement  
Co-Teaching  
Consultation  
Supportive Instruction  
Collaboration  
General Education

No. LEAs should determine Special Education service delivery models based on student needs, LEA staff capacity and LEA resources.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS WHO HOLD A GAPSC ISSUED 'W', 'N', OR 'SI' CERTIFICATE IN SPECIAL EDUCATION 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](mailto:professionalqualifications@doe.k12.ga.us)

CERTIFICATION:

GaPSC Portal, [mail@gapsc.com](mailto:mail@gapsc.com)

SPECIAL EDUCATION:

GaDOE Special Education Staff, Assigned District Liaisons

CHARTER & STRATEGIC WAIVER QUESTIONS:

#### 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