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.

- **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 Certificate in Special Education Not Supported by Test or Coursework 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) in accordance with the LEA’s PQ Requirements. AND **MUST** have a clearance certificate.

**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, lerste@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 and 3 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.

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

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Supportive Instruction
Co-Teaching
Consultation
Collaboration
Alternative Placement
General Education