

Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement Special Education Teacher Professional Qualifications Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)



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 requirement 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, etc.)
AND
MUST hold content certification OR the equivalent for the subject and grade level bands for which the teacher is assigned (K-5), (4-8), (6-12) and in accordance with the cognitive level specified in 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?

Co-Teaching
Consultation
Supportive Instruction
Collaboration
Alternative Placement
General Education

No. LEAs should determine Special Education service delivery 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 & PQ:

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

In-Field Reporting:

GaDOE will use GaPSC in-field rules to determine in-field qualifications. For LEAs that waive content area certification, teachers may demonstrate equivalent in-field qualifications by degree, coursework or content area test as reported in Fall CPI Cycle 1.

In-Field Equivalent:

- 1) degree in the subject area assigned, OR
- 2) Coursework in subject area assigned (21 semester/35 quarter hours), OR
- 3) Passing Score on Content Area Test in subject area assigned