

Personnel

Special Education Staff

Qualifications/Assignment of Special Education Teachers

Any teacher assigned to serve students with disabilities shall possess an appropriate credential or other authorization that specifically authorizes him/her to teach students with that primary disability within the program placement recommended in the students' individualized education programs (IEP).

The District may employ a person with an appropriate District intern credential to provide classroom instruction to students with disabilities, provided he/she has met the subject matter requirement specified in Education Code 44325 and receives guidance, supervision, and professional development through an established district intern program. (Education Code 44325, 44326, 44830.3)

The Superintendent or designee may request the Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC) to issue a special education limited assignment teaching permit or an emergency resource specialist permit, to authorize a qualified special education teacher, with his/her written consent, to serve outside the specialty area of his/her credential. In so doing, the District shall submit a Declaration of Need for Fully Qualified Educators that satisfies the requirements of 5 CCR 80026, 80027.1 and has been approved by the Board at a regularly scheduled Board meeting. If the teacher has not yet obtained permanent status, the Superintendent or designee shall assign one or more experienced educators in the special education subject area(s) of the permit, who have at least three years of full-time teaching experience in each of the subject area(s) of the permit, to provide guidance and assistance to the permit holder.

As needed, the District may apply to the CTC for an emergency permit for resource specialist services pursuant to 5 CCR 80024.3.1.

If there is a need to immediately fill a classroom vacancy or a suitable credentialed teacher cannot be found after a diligent search, the Superintendent or designee may, as appropriate, apply to the CTC for a short-term staff permit pursuant to 5 CCR 80021, a provisional internship permit pursuant to 5 CCR 80021.1 or, as a last resort, a credential waiver.

Individuals providing related services to students with disabilities, including developmental, corrective, and other supportive and related services, shall meet the applicable qualification specified in 5 CCR 3051-3051.24. (5 CCR 3051; 34 CFR 300.34, 300.156)

The Superintendent or designee shall provide ongoing professional development as needed to assist special education staff in updating and improving their knowledge and skills.

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Resource Specialists

The duties of resource specialists shall include, but are not limited to: (Education Code 56362; 5 CCR 80070.5)

1. Providing instruction and services for students with disabilities whose needs have been identified in an IEP
2. Conducting educational assessments
3. Providing information and assistance for students with disabilities and their parents/guardians
4. Providing consultation, resource information, and material regarding students with disabilities to staff members in the regular education program and the students' parents/guardians
5. Coordinating special education services with the regular school program for each student with disabilities enrolled in the resource specialist program
6. Monitoring student progress on a regular basis, participating in the review and revision of IEPs as appropriate, and referring students who do not demonstrate appropriate progress to the IEP team
7. Providing services for secondary students that emphasize academic achievement, career and vocational development, and preparation for adult life

Any student who receives resource specialist services shall be assigned to regular classroom teacher(s) for a majority of the school day, unless his/her IEP team approves enrollment in the resource specialist program for a majority of the school day. (Education Code 56362; 5 CCR 80070.5)

Resource specialists shall not simultaneously be assigned to serve as resource specialists and to teach regular classes. (Education Code 56362)

The District's resource specialist program shall be under the direction of a resource specialist who possesses the qualifications specified in Education Code 56362.

Caseloads

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that caseloads for special education teachers are within the maximum caseloads established by law, the collective bargaining agreement, and/or

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the comprehensive plan of the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) in which the District participates.

No resource specialist shall have a caseload which exceeds 28 students. As necessary and with the agreement of the resource specialist, the Board may request a waiver from the State Board of Education to increase the caseload to no more than 32 students, provided that an individual resource specialist does not have a caseload exceeding 28 students for more than two school years and has the assistance of an instructional aide at least five hours daily during the period of the waiver. (Education Code 56362, 56362.1; 5 CCR 3100)

The average caseload for language, speech, and hearing specialists shall not exceed 55 cases unless otherwise specified and reasons stated in the SELPA plan. The maximum caseload for speech and language specialists exclusively serving children with disabilities age 3-5 shall not exceed 40. (Education Code 56363.3, 56441.7)

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Legal Reference: Education Code Sections 44250-44279; 44256; 44258.9; 44265-44265.9; 44325-44328; 44830.3; 56000-56865; 56195.8; 56361; 56362-56362.5; 56363.3; 56440-56441.7; 8264.8
California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Sections 3051.1-3051.24, 3100; 6100- 6126; 80021; 80021.1; 80023.2; 80025.4; 80026; 80027.1; 80046.1; 80046.5; 80047-80047.9; 80048-80048.9.4; 80070.1-80070.8
United States Code, Title 20, Sections 1400-1482; Code of Federal Regulations, Title 34, Sections 300.8; 300.34; 300.156
Management Resources:
COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING PUBLICATIONS
Special Education Teaching and Services Credentials, Added Authorizations in Special Education, and Limited Assignment Permits for California Prepared Teachers: Frequently Asked Questions, May 26, 2014
Education Specialist Teaching and Other Related Services Credential Program Standards, 2012
WEB SITES
California Association of Resource Specialists and Special Education Teachers: <http://www.carsplus.org>
California Department of Education, Special Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/se>
California Speech-Language-Hearing Association: <http://www.csha.org>
Commission on Teacher Credentialing: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov>
National Association of Special Education Teachers: <http://www.naset.org>

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