

Required Credentials Special Education

Assignment Guidance for Teachers of Special Education

Assigning a special education teacher requires a review of the teacher’s certification field(s) and the primary disability category of the specific students being served in each class. When a special education teacher serves students who have different primary disability categories within one class, the acceptable certification field(s) of the teacher is determined by the primary disability category of the majority of students in the class.

Maximum Teaching Load

Pursuant to [Regulation 43-205, Administrative and Professional Personnel Qualifications, Duties, and Workloads](#), when special education teachers serve students who have differing disability categories, the maximum teaching load must be determined by the majority of the students in enrollment in the area of disability.

Special Education Certification Crosswalk

Primary Category of Disability	Code	Acceptable Certification Field
Autism		
	2E	Special Education: Emotional Disabilities
	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
	2M	Speech-Language Pathologist***
Deaf-Blind		
	2B	Special Education: Visual Impairments
	2D	Special Education: Hearing Impairments
Developmentally Delayed		
	2E	Special Education: Emotional Disabilities
	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
	2M	Speech-Language Pathologist***
Deaf and Hard of Hearing		
	2D	Special Education: Hearing Impairments
Emotional Disabilities		
	2E	Special Education: Emotional Disabilities

Primary Category of Disability	Code	Acceptable Certification Field
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Intellectual Disabilities		
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Learning Disabilities		
	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Multiple Disabilities		
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
Other Health Impaired		
	2E	Special Education: Emotional Disabilities
	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Orthopedically Impaired		
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Speech-Language Impaired		
	2M	Speech-Language Pathologist
	03	Speech-Language Therapist**
Traumatic Brain Injury		
	2G	Special Education: Learning Disabilities
	2H	Special Education: Intellectual Disabilities
	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
	2K	Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)*
Visually Impaired (including Blind)		
	2B	Special Education: Visual Impairments

*** Early Childhood Special Education**

Personnel certified in *Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)* may provide services for students ages 3–5, including students who are age 5 when they enter kindergarten.

Although *Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)* is listed under several certification fields, teachers holding this credential are only certified to teach students ages 3–5.

Educators with *Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)* certification are not appropriately certified to teach Kindergarten in a general education classroom.

For preschool classes that are made up exclusively of special education, *Special Education: Multi-categorical* certification is acceptable. That said, best practice would be that the teacher has certification in both *Early Childhood* and either *Special Education: Early Childhood (ages 3–5)* or *Special Education: Multi-categorical*.

**** No Longer Issued Certification Fields**

At the request of the educator, the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) Office of Educator Services will evaluate certification fields that are no longer issued to determine an educator’s eligibility for the issuance of the current, comparable certification field. If the certificate remains in good standing, the educator may continue to be employed and serve in that field.

When the SCDE Office of Special Education Services reviews appropriate certification, comparable fields include the following:

Code	Inactive Certification Field (no longer issued)	Code	Active Field
2	Special Education: Generic Special Ed	2I	Special Education: Multi-categorical
2F	Special Education: Orthopedically Impaired	2J	Special Education: Severe Disabilities
3	Speech-Language Therapist	2M	Speech-Language Pathologist

*** Speech-Language Pathologists must work within their scope of practice.