

Special Education Teaching Assignments and Certification

The following table shows the certification required for various types of special education teaching assignments. The types of teaching assignments are described on the [Continuum of Special Education Services for School-Age Students with Disabilities webpage](#). Certification requirements are available on the [Search Certification Requirements webpage](#).

Effective July 1, 2021, all special education teachers who teach one or more subject areas in a special class (self-contained class) in grades 7-12, with some or no students under alternate assessment, must either:

- be certified in each subject area that they teach, or
- meet the teaching experience requirement for the statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) and have an active SOCE application in the [TEACH online system](#) in each subject area that they teach.

Please note that teachers who hold any of the special education certificates listed in the following table can teach [students who are under alternate assessment](#) at any grade level.

For questions about teaching assignments that are not answered in the following table, please contact the Office of Special Education at speced@nysed.gov. For questions about certification requirements, please contact the Office of Teaching Initiatives at tcert@nysed.gov.

Special Education Certification	Special Education Teaching Assignment:			
	Preschool Itinerant Teacher	Consultant Teacher, Resource Room Teacher, Integrated Co-Teacher	Special Class Teacher – Some or No Students Under Alternate Assessment	Special Class Teacher – All Students Under Alternate Assessment
SWD (Birth-Grade 2) only	Yes	Birth-Grade 2	Birth-Grade 2	All grades
SWD (Birth-Grade 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 3-4) 	Yes	Birth-Grade 4	Birth-Grade 4	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) only	No	Grades 1-6	Grades 1-6	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (PK-K) 	Yes	PK-Grade 6	PK-Grade 6	All grades
SWD (Grades 1-6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 7-8) 	No	Grades 1-8	Grades 1-6	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist only	No	Grades 5-9	Grades 5-6	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 10-12) 	No	Grades 5-12	Grades 5-6	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a certificate or extension in grades 5-9 and in the subject area to be taught 	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grades 5-6 • Grades 7-9 in the subject area of the certificate held 	All grades

SWD (Grades 5-9) Generalist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a limited extension or statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught (only valid in a special class) 	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist only	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-9 in the subject area of the content specialty 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 10-12) 	No	Grades 5-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty 	All grades
SWD (Grades 5-9) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a limited extension or statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught (only valid in a special class) 	No	Grades 5-9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-9 in the subject area of content specialty Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held 	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) only	No	Grades 7-12	Not eligible; does not hold content area certification	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 5-6) 	No	Grades 5-12	Grades 5-6	All grades
SWD Generalist (Grades 7-12) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a certificate, extension, limited extension, or statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught 	No	Grades 7-12	Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the certificate held*	All grades
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist only	No	Grades 7-12	Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty	All grades
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With SWD grade-level extension (Grades 5-6) 	No	Grades 5-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 5-6 Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty 	All grades
SWD (Grades 7-12) Content Specialist <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With a limited extension or statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught 	No	Grades 7-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grades 7-12 in the subject area of the content specialty Grades 7-12 in the subject area of certificate held 	All grades
SWD (All Grades) or Permanent Special Education only	Yes	Birth-Grade 12	Birth-Grade 6	All grades

SWD (All Grades) or Permanent Special Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With a certificate, extension, limited extension, or statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) in grades 7-12 and in the subject area to be taught 	Yes	Birth-Grade 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birth-Grade 6 • Grades 7-12 in the subject area of certificate held 	All grades
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Severe or Multiple Disabilities Annotation

Special education teachers who hold the Severe or Multiple Disabilities Annotation can teach a special class where all students are under alternate assessment and all students have severe cognitive disabilities. Students can be at any developmental level (birth-grade 12).

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