# SPECIAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

<table>
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<th><strong>Purpose</strong></th>
<th>Allows general education teachers an alternative pathway to receive the special education endorsement.</th>
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| **Certificate Type** | • Teacher – Must have an active teaching certificate  
• Alternative Certification |
| **Preparation Type** | • Teacher  
• Special Education Alternative Preparation (not completed) |
| **Duration and Expiration of Endorsement** | • One-year endorsement which can be renewed two times  
• Special Education Endorsement expires June 30th  
• The Educator Certificate will not expire until the certificate expiration date |
| **Fees** | • $25 Initial Request (1-year Certificate)  
• $25 1-year Renewal |
| **Certificate Holder Requirements** | • Must have a valid teaching certificate;  
• Must have a minimum of three years of teaching experience within the past five years; and  
• Must be employed by a qualifying district. |
| **Authorization** | • The applicant will have the Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement or the K-12 Special Education endorsement added to their certificate while completing the requirements of the Special Education Alternative Certification route.  
• The endorsement will be removed if the applicant does not renew the endorsement or complete the requirements within three years. |
| **Scope of Certificate** | May teach Early Childhood Special Education or K-12 special education while pursuing the special education alternative certificate:  
• Early Childhood Special Education Requirements  
  o Must have an early childhood or elementary preparation  
• K-12 Special Education Requirements  
  o Must have an elementary preparation, secondary preparation, K-12 preparation, or CTE preparation |
| **Employer Requirements** | • Verify the applicant meets the requirements for special education alternative certification;  
• Provide mentorship by an individual with special education experience;  
• Recommend the applicant; and  
• Document the school attempted but was unable to hire a certified SPED teacher. |
| **Requirements to Receive the Special Education Endorsement** | • Complete a six-credit year-long practicum;  
• Complete nine credits of coursework in special education law, assessment, and a special education-related course;  
• Pass the state-designated pedagogy test;  
• Pass the state-designated content test; and  
• Receive signoff from the applicant’s employing school/district. |