

SPECIAL EDUCATION ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION

Purpose	Allows general education teachers an alternative pathway to receive the special education endorsement.
Certificate Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher – Must have an active teaching certificate • Alternative Certification
Preparation Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher • Special Education Alternative Preparation (not completed)
Duration and Expiration of Endorsement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$25 Initial Request (1-year Certificate) • \$25 1-year Renewal
Certificate Holder Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<p>May teach Early Childhood Special Education or K-12 special education while pursuing the special education alternative certificate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Special Education Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must have an early childhood or elementary preparation • K-12 Special Education Requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Must have an elementary preparation, secondary preparation, K-12 preparation, or CTE preparation
Employer Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.