



### Special Education Teacher Certification/Licensure and Endorsement Categories in the States

July 2004

Teacher certification in special education has become a hot topic after the passage of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 along with the “highly qualified teacher” definition that accompanied it. With the ever-present teacher shortage in special education, states are becoming hard pressed to properly staff and train special education teachers for their school districts. In the past several years, many states have been re-organizing of their special education teacher certification system to meet the changing demands on certifying special education teachers.

This *StateNote* focuses on the different types of certification systems and the endorsement areas for special education teachers in the states. The certification systems have been divided into three categories: generalist, mild/moderate-severe/profound and categorical. These categories were used because it nearly splits the states into thirds. The mild/moderate-severe/profound classification, even though it relies on a general classification, was used because of the increase in this type of certification system. States such as Kansas and North Carolina recently have revised their systems to adopt the mild/moderate-severe/profound classification. Brief definitions of the classification categories are as follows:

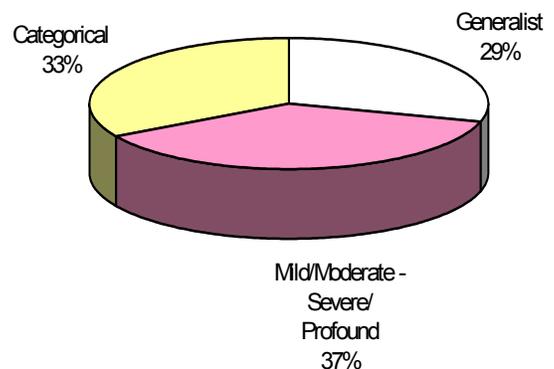
**Generalist:** States with a generalist classification system allow their special education teachers to teach most disability categories no matter the severity of the disability. Generalist states typically have two or three disability-specific categories in addition to the generalist certificate, and may have a special education early childhood certificate as well.

**Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound:** States with this classification system have some type of distinction between the generalist certificate for most special education children and the generalist certificate for severely disabled children. Not all states use the terms mild/moderate or severe/profound, and some states use the generalist certificate and a severe/profound certificate. For purposes of this report, when a state used a severity distinction with fewer than four disability-specific categories, it was classified as mild/moderate-severe/profound.

**Categorical:** States employing a categorical system require their special education teachers to receive disability-specific training and become certified in disability-specific areas. States differ on what disability-specific categories are used.

**Table 1:** The following graph illustrates the percentage of states using the different classification systems for special education teacher certification (due to rounding, does not total 100%.)

**Special Education Teacher Certification Configurations**



**Table 2** illustrates the different endorsement categories used in the states and the total number of states employing a specific endorsement category.

**\* Other** : Miscellaneous special education licensure/endorsement categories in the states that do not fit into a column in Table 2.

Alaska – Mentally/Physically Disabled, Multiple Disabilities (Alaska has many other categories, but many appear to be repetitive).

Delaware – Hearing Impaired Interpreter

Georgia – Preschool Special Education

Idaho – Multiple Disabilities

Kentucky – Hearing Impaired with Sign Proficiency

Minnesota – Oral/Aural Deaf Education

Nebraska – Preschool Disabilities, Vocational Special Needs, Multiple Disabilities

Nevada – Brain Injury, Other Health Impairments

New Jersey – Deaf or Hard of Hearing for Sign Language Communication

New Mexico – Interpreter for the Deaf

North Carolina – Hospitalized Homebound

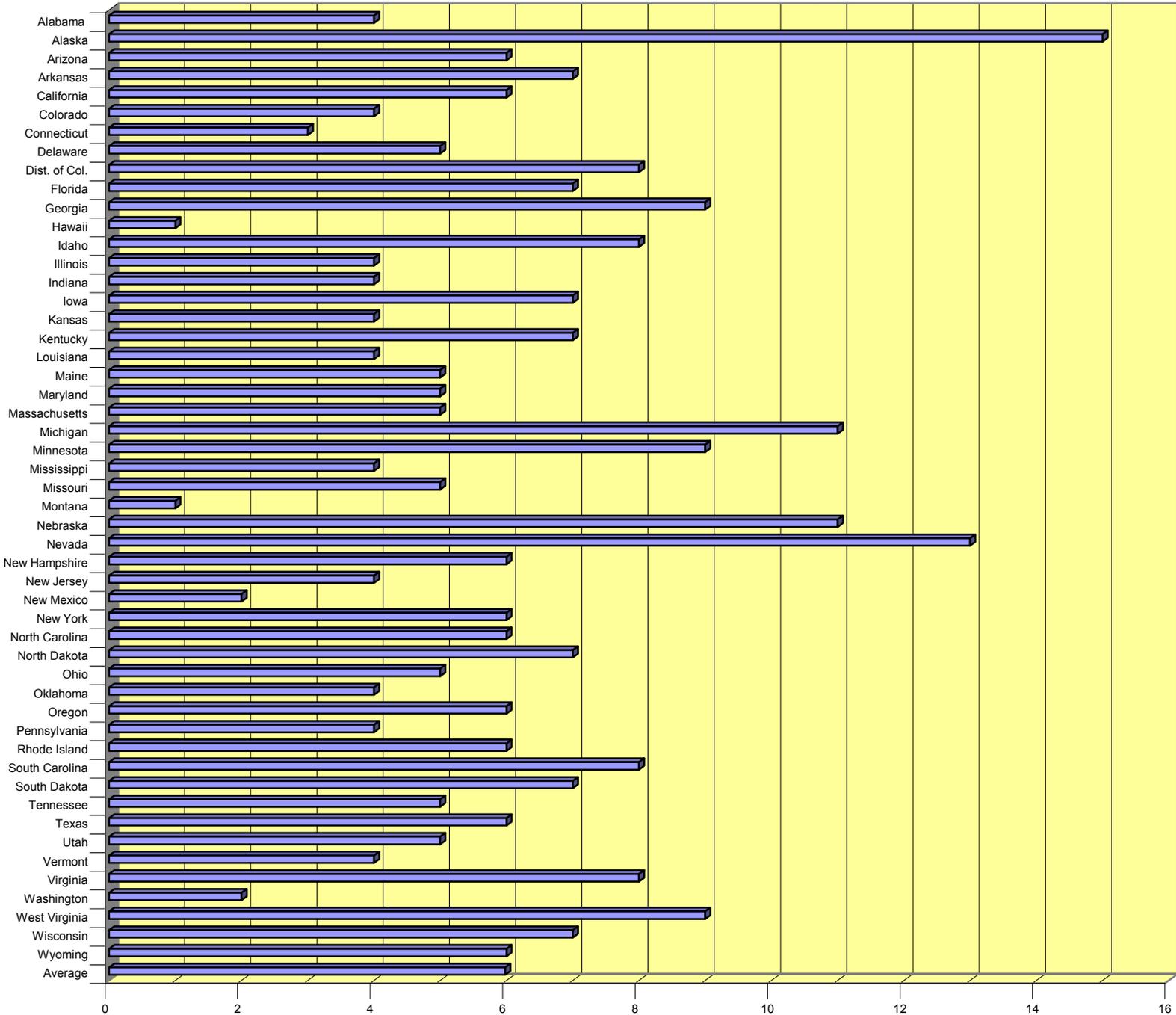
South Dakota – Sign Language, Braille

**Table 2: Special Education Endorsement Categories**

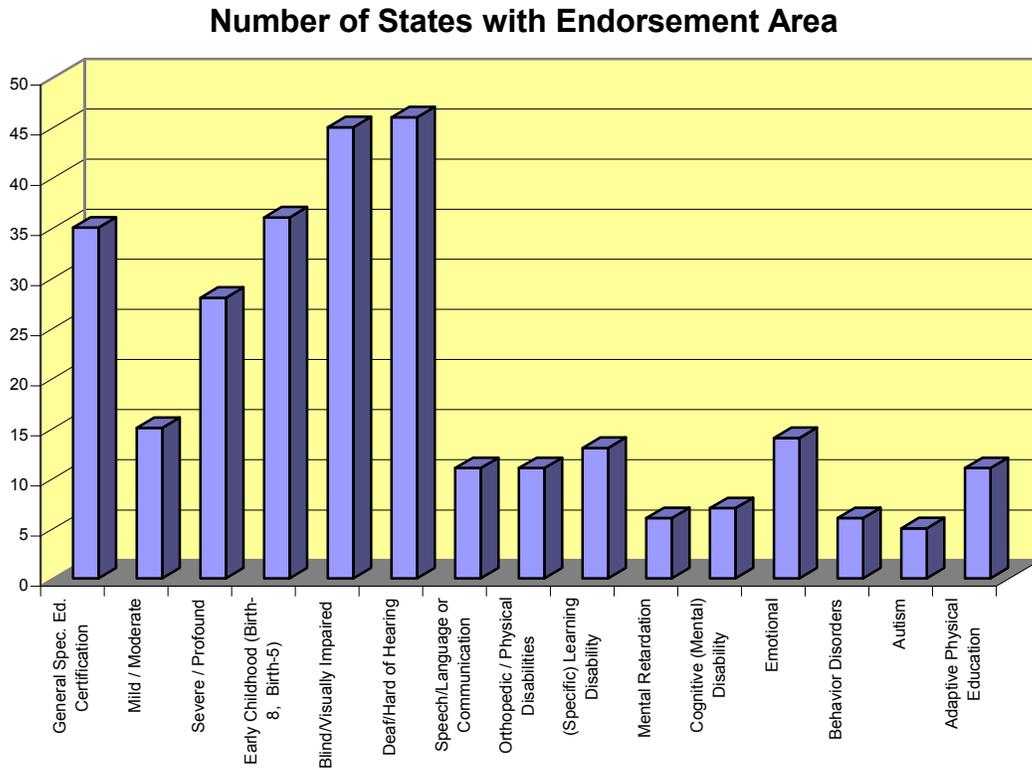
	General Spec. Ed. Certification	Mild / Moderate	Severe / Profound	Early Childhood (Birth-8, Birth-5)	Blind/Visually Impaired	Deaf/Hard of Hearing	Speech/Language or Communication (not pathologist)	Orthopedic / Physical Disabilities	(Specific) Learning Disability	Mental Retardation	Cognitive (Mental) Disability	Emotional	Behavior Disorders	Autism	Adaptive Physical Education	OTHER* (see explanations above)	Totals (includes other disability categories)
Alabama	✓			✓	✓	✓											4
Alaska	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓ (2)	15
Arizona			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										6
Arkansas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓						7
California		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									6
Colorado	✓			✓	✓	✓											4
Connecticut	✓				✓	✓											3
Delaware	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	5
Dist. of Col.	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					8
Florida	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓				7
Georgia	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	9
Hawaii	✓																1
Idaho	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓				✓	8
Illinois	✓			✓	✓	✓											4
Indiana	✓			✓	✓	✓								✓			4
Iowa		✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓				7
Kansas		✓	✓		✓	✓											4
Kentucky			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓			✓				✓	7
Louisiana		✓	✓		✓	✓											4
Maine	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Maryland	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Massachusetts		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Michigan	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			11
Minnesota				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	9
Mississippi		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					4
Missouri		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Montana	✓																1
Nebraska		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓		✓	✓ (3)	11
Nevada	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓ (2)	13
New Hampshire	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓											6
New Jersey	✓				✓	✓										✓	4
New Mexico	✓															✓	2
New York	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										6
North Carolina	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	6
North Dakota				✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓					7
Ohio		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Oklahoma		✓	✓		✓	✓											4
Oregon	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓								✓		6
Pennsylvania	✓				✓	✓	✓										4
Rhode Island	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓									✓		6
South Carolina	✓		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					8
South Dakota	✓			✓	✓	✓								✓		✓ (2)	7
Tennessee		✓		✓	✓	✓		✓									5
Texas	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					✓						6
Utah	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓											5
Vermont	✓			✓	✓	✓											4
Virginia			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓					8
Washington	✓			✓													2
West Virginia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓				9
Wisconsin				✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓			✓		7
Wyoming	✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓					6
Totals	35	15	27	36	45	46	11	11	13	6	7	14	6	5	11		

**Table 3:** This graph represents the total number of endorsement or licensure categories within a state special education certification system from the totals column in Table 2. The categories only apply to special education certifications that teachers can obtain and do not reflect professional certifications such as speech-language pathology.

### Total Special Education Teacher Endorsements by State



**Table 4:** The following graph illustrates the total number of states out of a possible 50 states and the District of Columbia that use a specific-disability category.



**Table 5:** This chart includes the type of classification system in the 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as a brief description of the special education teacher certification program system in the state and where to get additional information.

Special Education Teacher Certification Overview					
State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
Alabama	Generalist	Teacher Education and Certification Section  (334) 242-9977	ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 290-3-3-.34 et seq.	<a href="http://www.al.sde.edu/html/sections/section_detail.asp?section=66&amp;footer=sections">http://www.al.sde.edu/html/sections/section_detail.asp?section=66&amp;footer=sections</a>	Alabama has general certification for special education teachers. In addition, there are two disability-specific categories: visual and hearing impairments. Also, Alabama certifies early childhood special education teachers separately.
Alaska	Categorical	Teacher Education and Certification Office  (907) 465-2831	N/A	<a href="http://www.eed.state.ak.us/TeacherCertification/">http://www.eed.state.ak.us/TeacherCertification/</a>	Alaska until recently allowed new endorsement areas upon request by teacher and educational institution recommendation. This created a very large number of endorsement areas that overlap significantly. Alaska has an endorsement in every disability-specific area.
Arizona	Mild/Moderate -- Severe/Profound	Teacher Certification Unit  (602) 542-4367	ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE R7-2-610 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/SpecialEd/">www.ade.state.az.us/certification/requirements/SpecialEd/</a>	Arizona's Cross-Categorical Certification only allows teachers to teach mild/moderately disabled students. Arizona also has three disability-specific categories: visual, hearing, and speech/language disabilities.
Arkansas	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Office of Professional Licensure  (501) 682-4342	ARK. ADMIN. CODE §005.16.001	<a href="http://arkedu.state.ar.us/teachers/index.html#Initial">http://arkedu.state.ar.us/teachers/index.html#Initial</a>	Arkansas regulations say there is general certification, as well as a mild/moderate and a severe/profound certification. The early childhood certification allows teacher to teach special education children until the 4 <sup>th</sup> grade. There is also a visual- and hearing-disabilities certification.

**KEY**

Generalist - □ Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound - □ Categorical - □

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>California</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Commission on Teacher Credentialing  (916) 445-7254 (888) 921-2682	CAL. CODE REGS. tit. 5, § 80047 et seq.	<a href="http://www.ctc.ca.gov/default.html">http://www.ctc.ca.gov/default.html</a>  <a href="http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentialinfo/leaflets/cl808c.html">http://www.ctc.ca.gov/credentialinfo/leaflets/cl808c.html</a>	California uses the mild/moderate and severe/profound classification system and supplements with three disability-specific areas: visual impairments, hearing impairments, and physical impairments. California also uses an early childhood special education certification.
<b>Colorado</b>	Generalist	Educator Licensing	1 COLO. CODE REGS. § 301 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm">www.cde.state.co.us/index_license.htm</a>	Colorado has a generalist certificate that can be obtained at either the early childhood or K-12 levels. Colorado also has many outside professional certifications such as an audiologist. Special education teachers are initially certified as a generalist and can move up to the certification as a specialist, where they can obtain either the visual or hearing endorsement.
<b>Connecticut</b>	Generalist	Bureau of Certification and Professional Development  (860) 713-7017	CONN. AGENCIES REGS. § 10-145d-538	<a href="http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dt/cert/index.htm">http://www.state.ct.us/sde/dt/cert/index.htm</a>	In Connecticut, the generalist certification is called the comprehensive special education endorsement. Connecticut also has an endorsement that covers blind, partially sighted, and hearing impaired students.
<b>Delaware</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Office of Certification	DEL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 14, § 307 et seq.  DEL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 14, § 1561 et seq.	<a href="http://deeds.doe.state.de.us/">http://deeds.doe.state.de.us/</a>	Delaware has a generalist certificate that is divided into grades 1-8 and grades 7-12. There is also an early childhood special education license. The severe/profound certification includes autism. Regulations provide for a disability-specific hearing-impaired certification, but do not provide for a visually-impaired certification.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>District of Columbia</b>	Categorical	Office of Academic Credentials  (202) 442-5377	D.C. MUN. REGS. tit. 5, § 1600 et seq.	<a href="http://66.34.57.206/requirements.asp">http://66.34.57.206/requirements.asp</a>	The District of Columbia has two different tracks that special education teachers can take: the non-categorical approach and the categorical approach. Six different categorical disability-specific areas are offered. Also, teachers can be certified in early childhood special education.
<b>Florida</b>	Categorical	Bureau of Educator Certification  (800) 445-6739 (850) 488-2317	FLA. ADMIN. CODE ANN. r. 6A-4.0172 et seq.	<a href="http://www.fldoe.org/edcert/">www.fldoe.org/edcert/</a>	In Florida special education teachers must first obtain a regular education teaching certificate and then must obtain additional specializations in special education. Florida does employ a special education generalist category, but also has some disability-specific categories such as autism and communication disorders.
<b>Georgia</b>	Categorical	Georgia Professional Standards Commission  (800) 869-7775	GA. COMP. R. § REGS. r. 505-2 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.gapsc.com/TeacherCertification.asp">http://www.gapsc.com/TeacherCertification.asp</a>	Georgia does have a generalist special education certification, but also has six disability-specific categories, including orthopedic disabilities as well as a distinction between students with mental retardation and specific learning disabilities.
<b>Hawaii</b>	Generalist	Hawaii Teacher Standards Board  (808) 586-2600	HI. ADMIN. CODE § 8-54-1 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.htsb.org/">http://www.htsb.org/</a>	Hawaii does not have specific categories for the their special education teachers. Special education teachers must meet the same licensure qualifications as other Hawaii teachers.
<b>Idaho</b>	Categorical	Bureau of Certification and Professional Standards  (208) 332-6884	ID. ADMIN. CODE § 08.02.02.028	<a href="http://www.sde.state.id.us/certification/">http://www.sde.state.id.us/certification/</a>	Idaho has a general special education certification, as well as a few disability-specific categories. The disability-specific categories include physical disabilities, severe mental retardation, emotional disabilities, and multiple disabilities. Idaho also has a separate certification for early childhood special education.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Illinois</b>	Generalist	Teacher Certification  (217) 524-1289	ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 23, § 28	<a href="http://www.isbe.net/certification/default.htm">http://www.isbe.net/certification/default.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm">http://www.isbe.net/rules/archive/default.htm</a>	Since 2000, Illinois has undergone significant changes in special education teacher certification system, changing from multiple disability-specific categories to a generalist certification. This change was precipitated by a settlement in a lawsuit filed in federal court that criticized the teacher certification system for not providing the free appropriate public education that the Individual with Disabilities Education Act requires. Illinois retained disability-specific categories in visual and hearing disabilities and an early childhood special education certification. Illinois, however, has yet to pass final regulations and more changes can be expected.
<b>Indiana</b>	Generalist	Professional Standards Board  (866) 542-3672	IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 515, § 1-1-1 et seq.	<a href="http://www.in.gov/psb/">http://www.in.gov/psb/</a>	Indiana has a generalist system that allows teachers to be certified in special education. Indiana has very specific requirements for teacher training at the postsecondary level. Part of the curriculum requires the special education teacher to specialize in disability-specific areas within the generalist certificate.
<b>Iowa</b>	Extremely Categorical	Iowa Board of Educational Examiners  (515) 281-3245 (800) 778-7856	IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 281-81	<a href="http://www.state.ia.us/boee/">www.state.ia.us/boee/</a>	Iowa does not have a generalist category. Special education teachers must choose a category connected to a specific disability. In August of 2004 several disability categories will be eliminated. Still, Iowa has one of the most categorical special education teacher certification systems in the country.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Kansas</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Teacher Education and Licensure Team  (785) 296-8012	Teacher Education and Licensure Handbook – Endorsement Chart  <a href="http://www.ksde.org/cert/CertHandbook.doc#_Toc75143459">http://www.ksde.org/cert/CertHandbook.doc#_Toc75143459</a>	<a href="http://www.ksbe.state.ks.us/Welcome.html">www.ksbe.state.ks.us/Welcome.html</a>	Recent changes to the Kansas teacher certification system base generalist certifications on mild/moderate disabilities (called Adaptive Special Education) and severe/profound disabilities (called Functional Special Education).
<b>Kentucky</b>	Categorical	Education Professional Standards Board  (502) 564-4606	16 KY. ADMIN. REGS. 2:010 et seq.	<a href="http://www.kyepsb.net">www.kyepsb.net</a>	Except for the gifted endorsement, Kentucky requires its special education teachers to obtain a regular teaching certificate with some special education specialization. The specializations are categorical, including a category for behavior disabilities.
<b>Louisiana</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Division of Teacher Certification and Higher Education  (225) 342-3562	Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Policy – Bulletin 746: Louisiana Standards for Certification of School Personnel	<a href="http://www.doe.state.la.us/ide/tsac/home.html">http://www.doe.state.la.us/ide/tsac/home.html</a>  <a href="http://www.teachlouisiana.net/pages.asp?PageName=certificationcenter">http://www.teachlouisiana.net/pages.asp?PageName=certificationcenter</a>	Louisiana has a mild/moderate and severe/profound distinction in its general certification. In addition, Louisiana has visually- and hearing-impaired categories, as well as an early childhood interventionist birth-5 category. Louisiana's teacher certification rules are not in the Louisiana regulations. The policy can only be found in Bulletin 746, which at this time is not available online.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Maine</b>	Mild/Moderate -- Severe/Profound	Maine Department of Education  (207) 642-6603	CODE ME. R. § 05-071, ch. 115 §2	<a href="http://www.maine.gov/education/cert/cert.htm">www.maine.gov/education/cert/cert.htm</a>	Maine's generalist certificate is broken into three classifications: early childhood, K-8, 7-12. This certificate does not allow educators in Maine to teach severely disabled students. Maine also has a certification for special education consultants.
<b>Maryland</b>	Mild/Moderate -- Severe/Profound	Department of Education - Certification Branch  (410) 767-0412	MD. REGS. CODE tit. 13A, § 12.02 et seq.	<a href="http://certification.msde.state.md.us/Certification/Certification.html">http://certification.msde.state.md.us/Certification/Certification.html</a>	Maryland has a generalist category for special education that is divided into three age ranges: birth to grade 3, grades 1-8, and grades 6-12. Maryland also has a separate category for severely and profoundly disabled students, as well as visual and hearing disability-specific categories.
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Mild/Moderate -- Severe/Profound	Educator Licensing and Recruitment System	MASS. REGS. CODE tit. 603, §7.00 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.doe.mass.edu/Educators/education.html?section=k12">http://www.doe.mass.edu/Educators/education.html?section=k12</a>	Massachusetts is a classic mild/moderate and severe/profound state. Along with those general categories are the two most frequent disability-specific categories -- visual and hearing.
<b>Michigan</b>	Categorical	Michigan Special Education Personnel Approval System  (517) 373-0926	MICH. ADMIN. CODE r. 340.1781 et seq.	<a href="http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_6027-36783--,00.html">http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-5234_6027-36783--,00.html</a>	Michigan has categorical certification for most special education disabilities, including emotional, cognitive, learning disabled and others. Michigan also has a general special education certification.
<b>Minnesota</b>	Categorical	Minnesota Board of Teaching  (651) 583-8833	MINN. R. 8710.5000 et. seq.	<a href="http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_board_teach.htm">http://education.state.mn.us/html/intro_board_teach.htm</a>	Minnesota does not have a general special education teacher certification, but instead relies on various disability-specific categories. Minnesota, however, does have core standards that every teacher of special education must meet.

### KEY

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## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Mississippi</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Mississippi Department of Education  (601) 359-3483	N/A	<a href="http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/index.html">http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/ed_licensure/index.html</a>	Mississippi's main special education teacher certification system consists of generalist certifications in both mild/moderate and severe/profound. Mississippi, however, does have a separate endorsement for emotional disabilities.
<b>Missouri</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Division of Teacher Quality  (573) 751-0051 (573) 751-3847	MO. CODE REGS. ANN. tit. 5, § 80-800.350	<a href="http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/teacher/index.html">http://dese.mo.gov/divteachqual/teacher/index.html</a>	Missouri has its generalist certification broken into mild/moderate and severe/profound categories. Missouri also has an early childhood (birth-grade 3) certification category. Prior to September 2004, Missouri's mild/moderate certification was broken into specific-disability categories.
<b>Montana</b>	Generalist	Montana Office of Public Instruction  (888) 231-9393	MONT. ADMIN. R. 10.16.3136	<a href="http://www.opi.state.mt.us/">http://www.opi.state.mt.us/</a>	Montana only has one special education endorsement area: special education. The one endorsement extends from P-12 and through all ranges of disability.
<b>Nebraska</b>	Categorical	Nebraska Department of Education  (402) 471-0739	NEB. ADMIN. CODE 92-24	<a href="http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TCERT/TCE/RT.html">http://www.nde.state.ne.us/TCERT/TCE/RT.html</a>	Nebraska sets the mild/moderate and the severe/profound disability distinctions, but also has some disability-specific categories such as specific learning disabilities and behavior disorders, as well as a category for multiple disabilities.
<b>Nevada</b>	Categorical	Teacher Licensing Office  (775) 687-9115	NEV. ADMIN. CODE ch. 391, § 340 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.doe.nv.gov/licensure/moreinfo/specialed.htm">http://www.doe.nv.gov/licensure/moreinfo/specialed.htm</a>	Nevada has many disability categories in which it classifies special education teachers. A teacher can obtain a general special education certificate, but there are several disability categories that require a specialized certification, including mental retardation, autism and emotional disorders.

### KEY

Generalist - □ Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound - ■ Categorical - □

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State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>New Hampshire</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Department of Elementary and Secondary Education	N.H. CODE ADMIN. R. ANN. ED. 507.01 et seq.	<a href="http://www.ridoe.net/teacher_cert/certification/Certregs.htm">http://www.ridoe.net/teacher_cert/certification/Certregs.htm</a>	New Hampshire has a generalist certificate but requires additional certification when teaching severe/profound students. Also, there is a separate certification for early childhood special education teachers.
<b>New Jersey</b>	Generalist	Department of Education  (609) 292-2070	N.J. ADMIN. CODE tit. 6A, §9-9.2	<a href="http://www.nj.gov/njded/educators/licensure/">http://www.nj.gov/njded/educators/licensure/</a>	New rules for the licensure of teachers were adopted in January 2004. There are visual and hearing disability-specific categories as well as the generalist category.
<b>New Mexico</b>	Generalist	Professional Licensure Unit  (505) 827-6587	N.M. ADMIN. CODE tit. 6, § 61.6	<a href="http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/ais/lic/index.html">http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/ais/lic/index.html</a>	New Mexico only has one special education certification that covers K-12. There are some peripheral certifications, including mobility specialists and interpreters for the deaf.
<b>New York</b>	Generalist	Office of Teaching Initiatives  (518) 474-3901	N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 8, § 80-2.6	<a href="http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/nyscertreq.htm">http://www.hiighered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/nyscertreq.htm</a>	New York's generalist certification is broken into four age classifications, birth-grade 2, grades 1-6, grades 5-9, and grades 7-12. New York does have three disability specific categories: visual, hearing, and speech/language disabilities.
<b>North Carolina</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Licensure Section  (800) 577-7994 (919) 807-3310	State Board Policy on Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff  <a href="http://sbepolicy.dpi.state.nc.us/">http://sbepolicy.dpi.state.nc.us/</a>	<a href="http://www.ncpublicschools.org/employment.html">http://www.ncpublicschools.org/employment.html</a>	North Carolina recently revised its special education teacher certification policies to move away from disability-specific categories toward general certifications that focus more on subject areas within the curriculum. The generalist certification now is intended to cover 75% of the special education students with the severe/profound and visual and hearing categories containing the rest of the special education population.

### KEY

Generalist - □ Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound - ■ Categorical - ■

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>North Dakota</b>	Categorical	Education Standards and Practices Board  (701) 328-2264	N.D. ADMIN. CODE § 67-11-08 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/rules/current.shtm">http://www.dpi.state.nd.us/resource/rules/current.shtm</a> .  <a href="http://www.state.nd.us/esp/b/">http://www.state.nd.us/esp/b/</a>	In 2003, North Dakota passed several new special education teacher credentials, including emotional disturbance, mental retardation, physical disabilities, and specific learning disabilities. Also, the board added other special education-related categories such as special education director, special education strategists and special education paraprofessionals.
<b>Ohio</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Office of Certification/Licensure  (614) 466-3593	OHIO ADMIN. CODE § 3301-24-05	<a href="http://www.ode.state.oh.us/teaching-profession/teacher/certification_licensure/">http://www.ode.state.oh.us/teaching-profession/teacher/certification_licensure/</a>	Ohio operates on a two-tier generalist category. In Ohio the severe/profound certificate is called moderate/intensive. Ohio also has the two disability-specific categories of visual and hearing, and an early childhood handicapped endorsement area.
<b>Oklahoma</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Professional Standards Section  (405) 521-3337	OKLA. ADMIN. CODE § 210:20-9-10  <i>See also, Oklahoma Department of Education – Full Subject Matter Competencies for Licensure and Certification</i>	<a href="http://www.sde.state.ok.us/home/defaultie.html">http://www.sde.state.ok.us/home/defaultie.html</a>	Oklahoma uses the mild/moderate and severe/profound general classifications in licensing special education teachers. Oklahoma does not have an early childhood equivalent. Oklahoma does have disability-specific categories for visual and hearing disabilities.

### KEY

Generalist - □ Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound - □ Categorical - □

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Oregon</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe Profound	Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission  (503) 378-3586	OR. ADMIN R. 584-038 et. seq.	<a href="http://www.ts.pc.state.or.us/default.asp?op=1&amp;id=0">http://www.ts.pc.state.or.us/default.asp?op=1&amp;id=0</a>	Oregon has a general certificate called "Handicapped Learner" but also has some disability specific categories, including speech impaired. Also, there is a separate category for severely disabled learners and early childhood learners.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Generalist	Bureau of Teacher Certification and Preparation  (717) 787-3356	22 PA. CODE § 49.81 et seq.  (Does not provide Instruction Certificate Categories)	<a href="http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=90&amp;Q=32511&amp;teachingNav= 93 94">http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=90&amp;Q=32511&amp;teachingNav= 93 94</a>	Pennsylvania has only four special education-related teacher certificates and one special education supervisory certificate. In addition to the generalist certificate, there are also three disability-specific categories: visual, hearing, and speech language impaired.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Department of Education  (401) 222-4600	R.I. CODE R. 08 000 011  <i>See also,</i> Rhode Island Teacher Certification and Teacher Quality Website	<a href="http://www.ridoe.net/teacher_cert/certification/Certregs.htm">http://www.ridoe.net/teacher_cert/certification/Certregs.htm</a>	Most of the requirements for the special education certifications are not in regulations. The only one directly addressed is the certification requirements for the special education director. Rhode Island has a generalist certificate as well as visual- and hearing-disability certificates. Additional certification is required for the severe and early childhood categories.
<b>South Carolina</b>	Categorical	Division of Teacher Quality  (803) 734-8466 (877) 885-5280	S.C. CODE ANN. REGS. 43-62 et seq.	<a href="http://www.scteachers.org/Cert/index.cfm">http://www.scteachers.org/Cert/index.cfm</a>	South Carolina is a categorical state, but it also has a generalist and a severe category for special education teachers. Some of the disability-specific categories include physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental disabilities and emotional disabilities.

### KEY

Generalist - □ Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound - ■ Categorical - □

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>South Dakota</b>	Generalist	Office of Accreditation and Teacher Quality  (605) 773-3553	S.D. ADMIN. R. 24:16:08:04	<a href="http://www.state.sd.us/dec_a/OPA/index.htm">http://www.state.sd.us/dec_a/OPA/index.htm</a>	South Dakota has a generalist certificate for special education. There are separate certificates for visual and hearing disabilities, as well as early childhood. Also, South Dakota separately licenses special education paraprofessionals.
<b>Tennessee</b>	Generalist	Office of Teacher Certification and Licensing  (615) 532-4885	Special Education Teacher Licensure Standards Policy - <a href="http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/spe_dteacherlicstrds823.pdf">http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/spe_dteacherlicstrds823.pdf</a>	<a href="http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/tech_licens.html">http://www.state.tn.us/sbe/tech_licens.html</a>	Tennessee has a special education general category supplemented with three disability-specific categories: visual disabilities, hearing disabilities, and communication disabilities. Tennessee also has a separate disability category for early childhood special education.
<b>Texas</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	State Board for Educator Certification  (512) 936-8275	19 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 230.195 et seq.	<a href="http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/certinfo/routescertif.asp">http://www.sbec.state.tx.us/SBECOnline/certinfo/routescertif.asp</a>	Texas has a generalist certificate but requires additional certification if the student is severely or profoundly disabled. The emotional certification also covers autism. Texas also uses an early childhood certification category.
<b>Utah</b>	Mild/Moderate – Severe/Profound	Educator Licensing Division  (801) 538-7740	UTAH ADMIN. CODE 277-504-6	<a href="http://www.ue.k12.ut.us/cert/">http://www.ue.k12.ut.us/cert/</a>	Utah has a generalist category and also has separate categories for mild/moderate and severe/profound, as well as separate disability categories for visual and hearing disabilities. Utah also has a paraprofessional certification.
<b>Vermont</b>	Generalist	Education Licensing Office  (802) 828-2445	VT. CODE REG. 5200	<a href="http://www.state.vt.us/education/new/html/maincert.html">http://www.state.vt.us/education/new/html/maincert.html</a>	Vermont has a generalist category that covers most of special education. In addition to the generalist category, there are separate certifications for visual and hearing disabilities, as well as separate certification for early childhood special education.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Virginia</b>	Categorical	Division of Teacher Education and Licensure	8 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 20-21-10 et seq.	<a href="http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/newvdoe/teached.html">http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/newvdoe/teached.html</a>	Virginia does not have a generalist category and requires special education teachers to specialize in a disability-specific category. The categories include mental retardation, specific learning disability and emotional disabilities. Virginia also has separate categories for severely disabled students, as well as early childhood disabilities.
<b>Washington</b>	Generalist	Professional Education and Certification Office  (360) 725-6400	WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 180-82-200 et seq.	<a href="http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/endorsement/endorsementReq.aspx">http://www.k12.wa.us/certification/endorsement/endorsementReq.aspx</a>	Washington uses a general special education endorsement supplemented only by an endorsement in early childhood special education.
<b>West Virginia</b>	Categorical	Department of Education  (800) 982-2378	BOARD POLICY 5202	<a href="http://wvde.state.wv.us/certification/">http://wvde.state.wv.us/certification/</a>  <a href="http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/p5202.html">http://wvde.state.wv.us/policies/p5202.html</a>	West Virginia has a real mix of specializations in special education teacher certification. There are several disability-specific categories, including autism, behavior disorders, emotional disorder and communication disorder. Also, there are mild and moderate and severe and profound categories.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Categorical	Teacher Education, Professional Development and Licensure Office  (608) 266-1027	Wis. ADMIN. CODE § PI 34	<a href="http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/tel/index.html">http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/dpi/dlsis/tel/index.html</a>	Wisconsin recently updated its teacher certification rules, which took effect July 2004. Wisconsin does not have a generalist category. Instead, there are disability-specific categories, including cognitive disabilities, emotional disabilities and learning disabilities.

### KEY

Generalist -  Mild/Moderate-Severe/Profound -  Categorical -

## Special Education Teacher Certification Overview

State	System of Classification	Contact Information	Statutory/Regulatory Citations	Relevant Website	Description of Special Education Teacher Certification Program
<b>Wyoming</b>	Categorical	Professional Teaching Standards Board  (800) 675-6893	WYO. ADMIN. CODE COMMERCE-TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD ch. 7, §3 et seq.	<a href="http://www.k12.wy.us/ptsb/certification.htm">http://www.k12.wy.us/ptsb/certification.htm</a>	Wyoming does have a generalist certification, but also has disability-specific certifications in visual, hearing, emotional, and cognitive disabilities. Also, Wyoming has a separate early childhood certification.

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