

Every Student Succeeds Act

How does ESSA affect your state's licensure process for special education teachers?

The Basics

ESSA was passed into law in December 2015 and offers additional flexibility in teacher licensure requirements for states.

IDEA section 612(a)(14)(C), as amended by ESSA, eliminates the definition of "highly qualified" and specifies Federal requirements for the employment of special education teachers.

Do you know there is a link between licensure requirements and IDEA Part B funding?

As part of the application completed annually for IDEA Part B funding, states must address Assurance 14. States may address Assurance 14 by selecting either "yes" or "no."

YES ☒

We assure that all of our special education teachers are fully certified.

All of our special education teachers:

- Have obtained full certification by completing traditional or alternate preparation OR by passing the state special education licensing examination.
- Have not had special education certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.
- Hold at least a bachelor's degree.

NO ☒

We can NOT assure that all special education teachers are fully certified.

If all of your teachers do not have full certification, your state must attach a separate statement to the funding application assuring that special education teachers not fully certified hold bachelor's degrees and are currently enrolled in an alternate program where they:

- Receive high-quality professional development that is sustained, intensive, and classroom focused.
- Participate in intensive supervision that consists of structured guidance and regular ongoing support or teacher mentoring.
- Assume teacher functions only for a specified period of time not to exceed three years.
- Demonstrate satisfactory progress toward full certification.

CEEDAR Accepts Assistance Requests From All States and Territories

The CEEDAR Center staff can assist your state department of education or licensing agency with appropriate revisions to address this legislation.

Please complete and submit a Targeted Technical Assistance form at cedar.education.ufl.edu/targeted-technical-assistance

