

# Special Education Teachers

What does it mean to be highly  
qualified in South Carolina?

# Resource and Itinerant Teachers

- Definition
  - Do not provide the initial or primary instruction
  - Do not assign the grade in any core content subject
  - Not the teacher of record
- Requirements
  - Full state certification
  - Qualifying score on Praxis II content exams for exceptional children

# Praxis Test Requirements for Special Education Teachers in SC

- Deafness and Hearing
  - Impairment Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (0271)
- Educable Mentally Disabled
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Teaching Students with Mental Retardation (0321)
- Emotional Disabilities
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavior Disorders (0371)
- Generic Special Education
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
- Learning Disabilities
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Learning Disabilities (0382)
- Mental Disabilities
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
  - **and**
  - Special Education : Teaching Students with Mental Retardation (0321)
- Multi-categorical Special Education
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Teaching Students with Mental Retardation (0321)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Learning Disabilities (0382)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavior Disorders (0371)
- Severe Disabilities
  - Severe to Profound Disabilities (0544) (effective July 1, 2004)
- Trainable Mentally Disabled
  - Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge (0353)
  - **and**
  - Special Education: Teaching Students with Mental Retardation (0321)
- Visual Impairment
  - Teaching Students with Visual Impairments (0280)

# Self-Contained Special Education Teachers

- Early Childhood
  - Elementary
  - Middle
  - High School
- In addition to the other requirements
    - Qualifying score on the elementary Content Area Exercises exam (or any other previously required certification exam at the elementary level)

# Issues that need to be resolved

- Students (e.g., emotionally disabled or learning disabled) who are taught in a self-contained high school special education classroom that results in a credit towards graduation requirements.
- Professional development and accountability for all teachers who teach students with disabilities.
- Professional development on how to work as a member of a team that provides services to special education students (i.e., general education teacher, resource teacher, and paraprofessional).

# Future Steps

- Review state's new teacher standards (INTASC core principles) against the INTASC *Model Standards for Licensing General and Special Education Teachers of Students with Disabilities* and incorporate changes in the new regulations on teacher evaluation
- Continue emphasis on preparing candidates in all subject areas to teach students with disabilities through accreditation visits to teacher education programs (state standard on teaching low-performing students).

# Contact Information

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