

**Special Education Teachers  
ESEA and IDEA Highly Qualified Teacher Requirements**

The IDEA definition of a highly qualified teacher is one who meets all of the following criteria:

1. Holds at least a bachelor’s degree.
2. Holds a full state license and a special education endorsement.
3. Meets ESEA/IDEA highly qualified (HQ) requirements when teaching core academic subject areas- based on the teacher’s teaching assignment.

**Teaching Assignments**

| <b>Teaching Assignment</b>   | <b>HQ Requirements</b>   |
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| Special Education teacher teaching core academic subjects to students in <b>grades 9-12</b> and whose students receive no other core content instruction from a HQ general education teacher.  | All 9-12 special education teachers providing instruction in core academic subjects must demonstrate subject matter knowledge in each core academic subject they teach. Teacher must demonstrate subject matter competency in one of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a subject matter endorsement in the core academic subject they are teaching.</li> <li>• Have a major/graduate degree in core academic subject they are teaching.</li> <li>• Pass the TSPC approved Middle School or High School content test for the core academic subject they are teaching.</li> <li>• Meet Secondary HOUSSE requirements.</li> </ul> |
| Special Education teacher in <b>grades 9-12</b> teaching exclusively students who are assessed using Oregon’s Extended Assessment (alternative achievement standards). <b>-OR-</b><br><br>Special Education teacher in <b>grades 9-12</b> where all students in the classroom are assessed using Oregon’s Extended Assessment (alternative achievement standards). | All special education teachers who teach exclusively students who are assessed against the Alternative (Extended) Assessment must meet ESEA/IDEA HQ requirements for elementary school teachers. Teacher must demonstrate subject matter competency in one of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold an elementary multiple subjects endorsement.</li> <li>• Pass the ORELA (NES) Multiple subject test subpart I and II.</li> <li>• Meet Elementary HOUSSE requirements.</li> </ul>  |
| Special Education teacher teaching core academic subjects to students in <b>grades K-8</b> .   | All K-8 special education teachers who provide the direct instruction to students must meet ESEA/IDEA HQ requirements for elementary school teachers. Teacher must demonstrate subject matter competency in one of the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold an elementary multiple subjects endorsement.</li> <li>• Pass the ORELA (NES) multiple subjects test subparts I and II.</li> <li>• Hold a subject matter endorsement in the core academic subject they are teaching.</li> <li>• Meet Elementary HOUSSE requirements.</li> </ul>  |
| Special Education teacher providing <b>supplemental/support</b> or consultative services.  | Special education teachers with a teaching assignment in a supplemental/support or consultative role are not required to meet ESEA/IDEA HQ requirements for that portion of the assignment.  |

A Special Education teacher who is the only teacher of core academic subjects for a student must meet ESEA and IDEA requirements for HQ that apply to that student’s instruction and assessment levels.

Example: The special education teacher is the only teacher of English/Language Arts core content for a student who is 15 years old, the typical age of 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. The student is functioning at the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade level in decoding, but comprehends oral text near grade level. The special education teacher is required to meet ESEA/IDEA HQT requirements at the high school level (age appropriate level).

Example: A special education teacher provides **ALL** instruction to a group of students of varied ages (10 – 17 years old), functioning at the pre-kindergarten level. Students are assessed through the Extended Assessment. For this assignment, the special education teacher is required to meet the ESEA/IDEA HQ requirements at the elementary level.