

Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education Specialist Defined

Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Specialist is defined in OAR 581-015-2700 as: *"Professionals who implement or coordinate the implementation of individualized family service plans."*

Oregon Administrative Rule 581-015-2900 states, "Early Intervention and Early Childhood Specialists shall possess a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in early childhood, special education or a related field." Specialists without TSPC licensure or endorsement shall meet the requirements of the authorization process within 12 months of employment.



Roles of the Early Childhood Specialists

The specific roles of the Early Childhood Specialist are also delineated in OAR 581-015-2905. The OAR states that: "Responsibilities of the Early Childhood Specialist may include but are not limited to:

- Coordination of EI/ECSE services to children and their families;
- Assessment of children in EI/ECSE programs;
- Development and implementation of Individualized Family Service Plans;
- Development and implementation of data collection systems;
- Provision of consultation and support, as necessary, to families and staff;
- Training of instructional assistants; and
- Compliance with procedural safeguards.
- Provision of specialized instruction."

Early Childhood Specialist Authorization Content

The content of the Early Childhood Specialist Authorization consists of 50 competencies in eight Competency Areas. To be recommended for approval, candidates must meet the established criterion in a minimum of six of the eight competency areas.

These areas are:

- Typical/Atypical Child Development
- Assessment
- Family
- Service Delivery
- Program Management
- Service Coordination
- Research
- Professional Development Values/Ethics.



Steps for Obtaining Early Childhood Specialist Initial Authorization

1. The candidate obtains a copy of the Specialist portfolio of the Competencies for Professionals Working in EI/ECSE in Oregon.
2. The candidate reviews the application and portfolio material.
3. The candidate meets with his/her supervisor to discuss technical assistance available as well as possible documentation for listed competencies to be included in the candidate's portfolio.
4. The candidate reviews the examples provided on the website.
5. The candidate gathers documentation for the competencies based on the Level of Mastery Key and the Documentation requested for each competency.
6. The candidate completes the portfolio.
7. The candidate submits the completed application and portfolio to Holly Reed-Schindler at the ODE for review by the Authorization Review Panel.
8. The Review Panel will recommend approval or disapproval of each candidate's application for initial Authorization to the Associate Superintendent.
9. The Associate Superintendent, in consideration of the recommendations of the Review Panel, will approve or deny the candidate's application for initial Authorization.