

Pathways to Licensure: Special Education



Are you looking to fill a vacant Special Education position in your school? You may have an educator in your school or district who is already qualified to fill the position! The requirements below outline the most common credentials that educators earn to work in Special Education settings.

Professional Educator License (PEL) requirements

Option 1

PEL + Learning Behavior Specialist I (LBSI) endorsement
Valid for the grades listed on the endorsement (except prekindergarten)

Option 2

PEL + Early Childhood Special Education endorsement (Grades B-2 or B-3)

Option 3

Early Childhood Special Education Approval (Grades B-2 or B-3)

Short-Term Approval (STA) Requirements

Option 1

STE-LBSI

- ✓ One of the following:
 - PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
 - Educator License with Stipulations for Transitional Bilingual Educator
- ✓ Coursework completed in the survey of exceptional children
- ✓ Coursework completed in the following areas:
 - General characteristics of children with disabilities
 - General methods for teaching children with disabilities
 - Psychologist assessment of children with disabilities

Option 2

STE - Early Childhood Special Education

- ✓ One of the following:
 - PEL in a teaching field with an LBSI endorsement
 - PEL in a teaching field with an Early Childhood Education endorsement
- ✓ Coursework completed in two of the following areas:
 - Early childhood special education assessment
 - Methods of instruction in early childhood special education
 - Development of language in young children
 - Child, family, and community relationships
 - A passing score on the Early Childhood Special Education content test

These approvals are temporary credentials that allow an educator to immediately begin teaching while working toward full licensure requirements.

Application procedures

View full requirements at
www.isbe.net/licensure

1

Create or login
to your existing
ELIS account

2

Submit the applicable
endorsement or
approval application

3

Pay the \$50
application fee

4

Submit required
forms and transcripts
to your ROE/ISC

5

