

**Certification Staffing Assignment  
Special Education  
Special Education PreK-8  
Special Education 7-12**

The PreK-8 and 7-12 Special Education certificates provide candidates with the skills, knowledge, and competencies necessary to meet the needs of students with disabilities in multiple settings.

This document contains the following sections:

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**Certification Assignment**  
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**Grade-Level Scope of Certificate(s):**

A person holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for **Special Education PreK-8** (age 3-14) is qualified to teach all special education students from PreK through eighth grade. The holder must possess a valid Grades PreK-4, Grades 4-8, Early Childhood N-3, Elementary K-6, Reading Specialist PreK-12 or another content specific PreK-12 Instructional certificate.

A person holding a valid Pennsylvania certificate for **Special Education 7-12** (ages 11-21) is qualified to teach special education students from grades seven through twelve. The holder must possess a valid a secondary (7-12) subject area, Reading Specialist PreK-12 or another content specific PreK-12 Instructional certificate.

**NOTE:** Special Education PreK-12 certificates are not content specific certificates.

**Certification Assignment:**

An educator holding a Special Education certificate is qualified to render diagnostic, prescriptive, and education services designed within an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to serve students having one or more disabilities; assist in writing the IEP for the identified students; provide appropriate modification to curriculum; and provide instructional support as outlined in the IEP.

Special Education certified teachers are qualified to offer pre-vocational diagnostic and assessment services; provide basic occupational career awareness activities (such as job shadowing); provide diverse occupational training; provide opportunities for paid/unpaid work experiences in a community-based operation; coordinate job training agreements; and make provision for the appropriate

placement of these students in a work or community transition setting related to their career objectives.

**Special Considerations:**

An educator certified in Special Education may:

- provide professional development;
- serve in the role of mentor advisor;
- assist students in understanding how to read content area materials.

An LEA may make a written request to the Department for a staffing exception to the grade and age level limitations between Early Childhood, Elementary/Middle, Special Education PreK-8 and Special Education 7-12 for individual teachers on a case-by-case basis. **(22 Pa. Code §49.85- Limitations)** The school entity shall submit a written request to the Bureau that provides justification for the exception. The Bureau will issue a letter of response that will contain a set time period for the exception to remain valid.

**Certificate Clarifications:**

Other certification titles that remain valid are:

<b>Certificate Title:</b>	<b>Grade Scope:</b>	<b>Valid to teach:</b>
Special Education N-12	N-12	Nursery level (age 3) through twelfth grade
Mental and/or Physically Handicapped K-12	K-12	Kindergarten through twelfth grade
Mentally Retarded	K-12	Kindergarten through twelfth grade
Physically Handicapped	K-12	Kindergarten through twelfth grade
Socially and Emotionally Disturbed	K-12	Kindergarten through twelfth grade
Emotionally Disturbed	K-12	Kindergarten through twelfth grade

Note: All K-12 certificates may teach PreK-12 effective 9/22/07 per §49.85.

**References:**

Program Specific Guidelines for Special Education PreK-8 and Special Education 7-12

PA Public School Code: §1202, §1212, §1604

22 PA Code: Chapter 4: §4.21, §4.22, §4.23  
Chapter 49: §49.11, §49.81, §49.85  
Chapter 14

This revision supersedes all earlier CSPGs carrying this number and/or addressing this subject. Previous printing dates on this subject: 1973, 3/1975, 3/1978, 2/1982, 1/1987, 7/2004, 5/2005, 3/2014

**Summary of Changes**

<b>Date of Revisions</b>	<b>Major Changes to CSPG 061</b>
3/1/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Education N-12 certificate no longer issued effective 8/31/2013.</li> <li>• Special Education Pre K-8 and Special Education 7-12 certificates created effective 6/1/2010.</li> <li>• The Bridge program expired 7/1/2008 (for programs initiated 7/1/2005) and 7/1/2009 (for programs initiated 7/1/06). The Bridge program was extended until 8/10/2011.</li> <li>• Chapter §49.85 required Special Education PreK-8 and Special Education 7-12 certificates and certificate programs implemented effective 6/1/2010.</li> <li>• Chapter §49.85 regulations for Special Education PreK-8 and Special Education 7-12 certificates, adopted 12/2007.</li> </ul>
5/9/2005	CSPG #61 – Co-teaching addressed for content area teaching combined with Special Education (page 1).
7/1/2004	<p>CSPG #61 – title change/number change: Special Education-Cognitive, Behavior, and Physical/Health Disabilities (CB/PHD) (Nursery-12).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, Speech Language Impaired certificate information stated in separated CSPGs.</li> <li>• Special Education certificate may be used for transition programs for students with IEP's; formerly a Cooperative Education certificate was also required.</li> </ul>
4/1/1992	<p>CSPG #50 – Special Education Certification and Assignment Scope K-12.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information on Hearing Impaired certificates and older titles.</li> <li>• Information on Visually Impaired and older titles.</li> <li>• Information on Mentally Retarded and older titles.</li> <li>• Information on Speech and Language Impaired.</li> <li>• Information on Letters of Authorization.</li> <li>• Information about the Curriculum &amp; Instruction Supervisor; Pupil Personnel Services Supervisor; School Psychologist as related to special education.</li> </ul>
3/1/1975	<p>CSPG #50 – Certification in Special Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective 7/1/1969 certificates no longer issued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Speech Correctionist and Speech and Hearing Disorders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New certificate – Speech Correction.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Deaf and Hard of Hearing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Date of Revisions</b>	<b>Major Changes to CSPG 061</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ New certificate – Hearing Impaired.</li><li>○ Visually Handicapped.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ New certificate -Visually Impaired.</li></ul></li><li>○ Mentally Retarded, Physically Handicapped, Socially and Emotionally Maladjusted.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ New certificate – Emotionally Disturbed.</li><li>▪ New certificate – Physically and Mentally Handicapped.</li></ul></li><li>○ Elementary certification will no longer qualify the holder to teach exceptional students classified as “learning disabled;” grandfathering for employment from 1975-76 and continuing.</li><li>○ Gifted programs may be taught by a teacher in the area of scheduled instruction.</li><li>○ Social Restoration certificate may be used for remedial instruction except for exceptional students with learning disabilities.</li></ul>