

Special Education Program
Guide for Meeting No Child Left Behind (NCLB)
Highly Qualified Teacher Requirement

There are numerous positions held by special education teachers; thus, the NCLB requirements for Highly Qualified can be interpreted in a number of ways. This guide includes some common special education teaching assignments arranged by endorsement, the corresponding NCLB requirements, and recommendations for Washington Educator Skills Test – Endorsements (WEST-E) tests.

Refer to the websites below for information on the tests referenced in this guide that will meet NCLB Highly Qualified Requirements:

Woodring WEST-E Test Resource Site:
<http://www.wce.wwu.edu/Resources/Endorsements/WEST-E.shtml>

Washington Educator Skills Test (WEST) Website:
<http://www.west.nesinc.com/>

Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement (P-3)

Required WEST-E Test:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Early Childhood Special Education	071	Early Childhood Special Education

Recommended WEST-E Tests:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Early Childhood Education	001	Early Childhood Education
OR		
Elementary Education Subtest 1: Mathematics, Science, Health/Fitness	005	Elementary Education
and		
Elementary Education Subtest 2: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre Arts	006	

You can teach in an early childhood special education preschool setting with the Early Childhood Special Education endorsement. You must pass the Early Childhood Special Education WEST-E test for the endorsement. NCLB Highly Qualified requirements do not apply to preschool classrooms.

You can teach special education in Kindergarten through third grade with the Early Childhood Special Education endorsement. The Early Childhood Special Education WEST-E test, which is also required for the endorsement, meets IDEA requirements for a highly qualified special education teacher. If you are the only or the primary teacher who provides instruction to a child in reading, math, written language, or other core academic area noted in NCLB, you should also take the Early Childhood Education or Elementary Education or WEST-E tests.

To give you the most flexibility in teaching assignments, it is recommended that you take either the Early Childhood Education WEST-E or the Elementary Education WEST-E as well as the Early Childhood Special Education WEST-E.

Special Education Endorsement (P-12)

Required WEST-E tests:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Special Education	070	Special Education

Recommended WEST-E tests:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Elementary Education Subtest 1: Mathematics, Science, Health/Fitness and Elementary Education Subtest 2: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre Arts	005 006	Elementary Education
Subject Area Test if teaching a departmentalized 6 th grade or above	Varies	Subject Area Endorsement

In some cases you will not be required to meet NCLB requirements. For example, if you work as a behavioral consultant, a transition specialist, or a consultative teacher (provided that the teacher you work with is Highly Qualified under NCLB), then you will not need to meet NCLB requirements. You would be considered Highly Qualified under IDEA upon successful completion of requirements for a Residency teacher certificate endorsed in Special Education.

You can teach students who are assessed only on an alternate achievement standard (WAAS – either the portfolio or the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW)) as long as you pass a WEST-E test appropriate for the level subject matter you will be teaching to the students. For example, the Elementary Education WEST-E would be sufficient if all students in the classroom are assessed at the elementary level. This would be the case for most students assessed through the portfolio option of the WAAS.

You can work as a resource room or self-contained teacher, but if you are the only or the primary provider of instruction in reading, math, written language, or other core academic area noted in NCLB, you will need to meet the Highly Qualified requirements. You can accomplish this by passing the appropriate subject WEST-E. For elementary level, including a self-contained 6th grade classroom, the Elementary Education WEST-E would suffice.

If you will teach in a school where the 6th grade is departmentalized or any higher grade level, you will need to meet the standards required of middle school teachers or secondary teachers (45 credits in the subject area or pass the subject area WEST-E). If you are Highly Qualified in math, language arts or science, you will have two years from the date of hire to become highly qualified in other core academic subjects you are assigned to teach.

It is highly recommended that Special Education (P-12) teacher candidates that have an interest in teaching students assessed at the elementary level, take the Elementary Education WEST-E/Praxis II.

Dual Endorsement: Special Education (P-12) and Elementary Education

Required WEST-E Tests:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Special Education	070	Special Education
Elementary Education Subtest 1: Mathematics, Science, Health/Fitness and Elementary Education Subtest 2: English Language Arts, Social Studies, Theatre Arts	005 006	Elementary Education

Recommended WEST-E Tests:

<i>Test Name</i>	<i>Test Code</i>	<i>Required for this Endorsement</i>
Subject Area Test if teaching a departmentalized 6 th grade or above	Varies	Subject Area Endorsement

The special education requirements for Early Childhood Special Education (P-3) and Special Education (P-12) apply to any special education position you accept. While the Special Education (P-12) endorsement includes early childhood special education, it is not recommended that you accept an ECSE position unless you have completed the Early Childhood Special Education major. Please review the applicable special education requirements listed above.

You can teach general education K-5 because you hold an endorsement in Elementary Education and have passed the Elementary Education WEST-E. If you teach a self-contained general 6th grade class, the Elementary Education WEST-E would suffice. If you teach in a school where 6th grade is departmentalized or a higher grade, you must meet the standards required for middle school teachers or secondary teachers (45 credits in the subject area or pass the subject area WEST-E).

A Final Note...

Veteran teachers with at least one year of teaching experience have access to a points-based Highly Objective Uniform State Standard Evaluation (HOUSSE) option administered by the school district. School districts are in the best position to advise teachers on the HOUSSE.