



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS EMERGENCY PERMITS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS

Q.1: What are the federal licensure requirements for special education teachers?

A.1: A special education teacher who teaches in a public pre-kindergarten, elementary, middle, junior high, or high school must have obtained full state licensure as a special education teacher, including licensure through an alternative route. The teacher must not have had special education licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis. Full special education licensure in Indiana requires completion of an approved program of coursework and testing.

Q.2: What is considered an alternate route to special education certification?

A.2: An alternate route to teacher certification is an option available to individuals who didn't follow a traditional teacher preparation program in college.

The transition to teaching (T2T) programs may provide an alternate path for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution to meet the additional requirements to obtain a teaching license.

The emergency permit (EP) has also served as a point of entry into special education teaching for others who already hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and commit to enter a T2T or traditional education certification program within the first year to meet the additional requirements to obtain a teaching license.

Q.3: As the state works to achieve compliance with federal law regarding special education emergency permits, who will be impacted?

A.3: Any current special education teacher who is teaching on a permit that was obtained on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.

Q.4: If I hold a license or permit issued on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis, may I serve as a special education teacher in 2021-2022?

A.4: If you currently hold a license or permit in a special education area that is valid through the 2021-2022 school year, you may serve as a special education teacher. IDOE will be providing guidance to T2T providers, LEAs, and permit holders on the training, professional development, and additional support that is expected during the 2021-2022 school year and beyond. These permit holders should strive to complete all program and testing requirements for full licensure prior to the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. More guidance concerning special education alternative licensure programs, LEAs, and permit holders will be disseminated during Fall 2021.

Q.5: How do I renew my emergency permit for the 2021-2022 school year?

A.5: To renew an emergency permit for the 2021-2022 school year, you will need to provide proof that you are making progress toward meeting full licensure requirements in the special



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education content area. This means you will be required to upload transcripts of coursework you have taken during the prior school year or summer. If testing is your only deficiency, you must upload score reports verifying test attempts. All emergency permit applications, including renewals, must be approved by your school employer.

Q.6: Will emergency permits be issued after the 2021-2022 school year?

A.6: Due to federal law, IDOE will no longer issue emergency permits in special education areas after the 2021-2022 school year.

Q.7: What if I have already been teaching on a special education emergency permit?

A.7: During the 2021-2022 school year, teachers who are teaching on their third (or more) special education emergency permit may continue to teach during 2021-2022 but should strive to complete their coursework and testing requirements to apply for full licensure.

Q.8: Is there a T2T program specific to special education?

A.8: T2T programs are approved for grade/developmental levels, not specific content areas. IDOE will work to engage higher education, T2T program providers, and LEAs to develop and implement alternative path programs designed to meet the requirements of state and federal law.

All transition to teaching programs are designed and approved for specific grade levels (P-3, K-6, 5-12, or P-12) and not for specific content area preparation. There are four universities, however, that offer additional, focused preparation or training for those seeking to become licensed in special education; however, they remain within the 18 or 24 credit limits.

These include Marian University, Oakland City University, Indiana Wesleyan University, and University of Saint Francis. In some cases, universities with transition to teaching programs may refer interested candidates to one of these programs, especially if they lack the capacity (experienced faculty, resources, etc.) to prepare one for special education instruction. While not all educator preparation providers are required to offer transition to teaching, they are expected to refer and assist interested candidates to a university/universities with this program option. All other transition to teaching programs, however, can work with and license candidates in special education so long as they meet the admission criteria and complete all program, focused support, and licensure requirements, including testing.

Q.9: If I hold a full instructional license in another content area, how do I add a special education area?

A.9: Completion of both an approved program of coursework and passage of the content test are required to make the addition to your license.

Q.10: If I don't hold a full instructional license in another content area, can I enroll in a T2T program for special education licensure?

A.10: If you hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution and you do not have a full instructional license in another subject area, you may be able to enroll in a T2T



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program for a special education area, such as mild or intense intervention. The path you take to enrollment will be impacted by your undergraduate major, your GPA, and years of education-related occupational experience you may have already completed. Completion of the T2T program and the license content and pedagogy tests are required to obtain your full Professional Educator License at the end.

Q.11: When is it anticipated these new requirements will go into effect?

A.11: IDOE anticipates the new requirements will take effect July 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 school year.

Q.12: What can human resources officers and/or special education administrators be doing today to prepare for these upcoming changes?

A.12: Talk with each emergency permit holder at your school to better understand how close each teacher is to completing their coursework and testing for full licensure. Priority can then be placed on getting those teachers, that are the closest to completion, across the final finish line. The goal should be to get as many emergency permit holders fully licensed as possible.