

**Section 2: TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL SPECIALISTS: SPECIAL
EDUCATION CERTIFICATES AND ENDORSEMENTS**

2.1 Endorsement 282: Teacher of Children with Disabilities – Preschool to Grade 12

A. Function: This endorsement on a teacher certificate allows the holder to teach children with disabilities from Preschool through grade 12 and to consult with teachers, children, and parents/guardians.

B. Eligibility: Applicants shall meet eligibility requirements specified in Part I. In addition, eligibility for this endorsement shall be established by one of two pathways. Individuals who are not eligible through either pathway may be eligible for a conditional certificate, in accordance with 2.1B.3 and 2.1.B.4, below and Part I Section 6.1 of this rule.

1. Endorsement Pathway 1

- (a) Successful completion of an approved program for teachers of children with disabilities Preschool through grade 12, together with a formal recommendation from the preparing institution;
- (b) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and
- (c) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom.

2. Endorsement Pathway 2

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.2 of this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of 24 semester hours in special education with three courses (at least three semester hours each) in the following areas: evaluation and assessment, specially designed instruction (SDI), and reading instruction, including phonemic awareness and phonics using evidenced-based practices.

Additionally, at least one course (at least three semester hours) must address one of the following areas: Universal Design for Learning (UDL), inclusion and least restrictive environment (LRE), types of disabilities, program planning, behavior intervention and supports, special education law and implementation.

The remaining semester hours must come from the above list or other special education courses. The requirement in 2.1.B, 2. (b) and (c) can be met through undergraduate or graduate courses, residencies, apprenticeships, practicums, or other verified experiences.

(c) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in diversity-centered content related to today's classroom (e.g. culturally responsive teaching, multilingual education, intercultural education, second language acquisition or world language teacher methods);

(d) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in human development, educational psychology, developmental psychology, adolescent psychology, child development, or equivalent;

(e) Passed basic skills test in reading, writing, and mathematics in accordance with State Board of Education Rule Chapter 13, or achieved at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all courses required for the certification, or completed a successful portfolio review demonstrating competency in Maine's Initial Teacher Standards; and

(f) Completed one academic semester or a minimum of 15 weeks of full-time student teaching, or a combination of part-time and full-time student teaching in an among equivalent to 15 weeks in this endorsement area at the specified grade level. Student teaching in a general education classroom can be accepted to satisfy this special education endorsement requirement provided there is verification from the school system that specially designed instruction, Individual Education Program (IEP) development, and case management for the purpose of special education was delivered by the candidate during the student teaching experience. This requirement shall be waived upon completion of one full year of successful teaching under a conditional certificate in this endorsement area at the specified grade range.

3. Conditional Certificate for Endorsement

A. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Degree Program

(a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule;

(b) Completed a minimum of nine semester hours in special education; and

(c) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teacher under a Conditional Certificate for special education endorsement.

B. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Educational Technician III to Teacher of Children with Disabilities

(a) Earned at least a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university; in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule;

(b) Completed a minimum of three years of experience as an Educational Technician III with a positive evaluation from an administrator;

(c) Hired as a special education classroom teacher with a letter from the hiring school;

(d) Accepted into a post-baccalaureate or graduate program in special education at an accredited university program;

(e) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certificate for a special education endorsement.

C. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Portfolio Pathway

(a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and

(b) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom; and

(c) Completed an approved portfolio in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule with prior approval from the superintendent and the department; and

(d) Until professional certification is obtained, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teachers in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certification for special education endorsement.

2.1 Endorsement 283: Provider of Early Intervention/ Teacher of Children with Disabilities Birth to 5 years

A. Function: This endorsement on a teacher certificate allows the holder to teach deliver early intervention and early childhood special education services to infants, toddlers, and preschool aged children with disabilities from birth to age five. It also enables them to support parents/guardians, families and external service providers working with children in this age group.

B. Eligibility: Applicants shall meet eligibility requirements specified in Part I. In addition, eligibility for this endorsement shall be established by one of two pathways.

Individuals who are not eligible through either pathway may be eligible for a conditional certificate, in accordance with 2.1B.3 and 2.1.B.4, below and Part I Section 6.1 of this rule.

1. Endorsement Pathway 1

- (a) Successful completion of an approved program for teachers of children with disabilities Birth to age 5, together with a formal recommendation from the preparing institution;
- (b) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and
- (c) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom.

2. Endorsement Pathway 2

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.2 of this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of 24 semester hours in special education with four courses (at least three semester hours each) in the following areas: Fundamentals of pre literacy, fundamentals of pre numeracy, early intervention, and teaching strategies for an inclusive early childhood classroom.

Additionally, at least one course (at least three semester hours) must address one of the following areas: Types of disabilities, program planning, behavior intervention and supports, special education law and implementation.

The remaining semester hours must come from the above list or other special education courses. The requirement in 2.1.B, 2. (b) and (c) can be met through undergraduate or graduate courses, residencies, apprenticeships, practicums, or other verified experiences.

- (c) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in diversity-centered content related to today's classroom (e.g. culturally responsive teaching, multilingual education, intercultural education, second language acquisition or world language teacher methods);
- (d) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in human development, educational psychology, developmental psychology, adolescent psychology, child development, or equivalent;

- (e) Passed basic skills test in reading, writing, and mathematics in accordance with State Board of Education Rule Chapter 13, or achieved at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all courses required for the certification, or completed a successful portfolio review demonstrating competency in Maine's Initial Teacher Standards; and
- (f) Completed one year of providing early intervention/early childhood special education between children birth to age 5 with supervision from an early intervention or early childhood special education supervisor.

3. Conditional Certificate for Endorsement

A. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Degree Program

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of nine semester hours in special education; and
- (c) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teacher under a Conditional Certificate for special education endorsement.

B. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Educational Technician III to Teacher of Children with Disabilities

- (a) Earned at least a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university; in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of three years of experience as an Educational Technician III with a positive evaluation from an administrator;
- (c) Hired as a special education classroom teacher with a letter from the hiring school;
- (d) Accepted into a post-baccalaureate or graduate program in special education at an accredited university program;
- (e) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certificate for a special education endorsement.

C. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Portfolio Pathway

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and
- (b) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom; and
- (c) Completed an approved portfolio in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule with prior approval from the superintendent and the department; and
- (d) Until professional certification is obtained, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teachers in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certification for special education endorsement.

2.1 Endorsement 286: Teacher of Children with Severe Disabilities – Preschool to Grade 12

- A. Function:** This endorsement on a teacher certificate allows the holder to teach children with disabilities from Preschool through grade 12 and to consult with teachers, children, and parents/guardians.
- B. Eligibility:** Applicants shall meet eligibility requirements specified in Part I. In addition, eligibility for this endorsement shall be established by one of two pathways. Individuals who are not eligible through either pathway may be eligible for a conditional certificate, in accordance with 2.1B.3 and 2.1.B.4, below and Part I Section 6.1 of this rule.

1. Endorsement Pathway 1

- (a) Successful completion of an approved program for teachers of children with severe disabilities Preschool through grade 12, together with a formal recommendation from the preparing institution;
- (b) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and
- (c) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom.

2. Endorsement Pathway 2

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.2 of this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of 24 semester hours in special education in the areas relevant to the Preschool through grade 12 endorsement being sought (severe disabilities).

Additionally, at least one course (at least three semester hours) must address one of the following areas: Universal Design for Learning (UDL), inclusion and least

restrictive environment (LRE), types of disabilities, program planning, behavior intervention and supports, special education law and implementation.

The remaining semester hours must come from the above list or other special education courses. The requirement in 2.1.B, 2. (b) and (c) can be met through undergraduate or graduate courses, residencies, apprenticeships, practicums, or other verified experiences.

(c) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in diversity-centered content related to today's classroom (e.g. culturally responsive teaching, multilingual education, intercultural education, second language acquisition or world language teacher methods);

(d) Completed a minimum of three semester hours in human development, educational psychology, developmental psychology, adolescent psychology, child development, or equivalent;

(e) Passed basic skills test in reading, writing, and mathematics in accordance with State Board of Education Rule Chapter 13, or achieved at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA in all courses required for the certification, or completed a successful portfolio review demonstrating competency in Maine's Initial Teacher Standards; and

(f) Completed one academic semester or a minimum of 15 weeks of full-time student teaching, or a combination of part-time and full-time student teaching in an equivalent to 15 weeks in this endorsement area at the specified grade level. Student teaching in a general education classroom can be accepted to satisfy this special education endorsement requirement provided there is verification from the school system that specially designed instruction, Individual Education Program (IEP) development, and case management for the purpose of special education was delivered by the candidate during the student teaching experience. This requirement shall be waived upon completion of one full year of successful teaching under a conditional certificate in this endorsement area at the specified grade range.

3. Conditional Certificate for Endorsement

A. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Degree Program

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of nine semester hours in special education; and
- (c) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teacher under a Conditional Certificate for special education endorsement.

B. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Educational Technician III to Teacher of Children with Disabilities

- (a) Earned at least a bachelors degree from an accredited college or university; in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule;
- (b) Completed a minimum of three years of experience as an Educational Technician III with a positive evaluation from an administrator;
- (c) Hired as a special education classroom teacher with a letter from the hiring school;
- (d) Accepted into a post-baccalaureate or graduate program in special education at an accredited university program;
- (e) In the first year of employment, be enrolled in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certificate for a special education endorsement.

C. Conditional Certificate for this Endorsement: Portfolio Pathway

- (a) Earned at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 of this rule; and
- (b) Completed an approved course for teaching students with exceptionalities in the regular classroom; and
- (c) Completed an approved portfolio in accordance with Part I Section 6.1 or this rule with prior approval from the superintendent and the department; and
- (d) Until professional certification is obtained, be enrolled in an approved program for mentoring teachers in a Maine approved program for mentoring teachers under a Conditional Certification for special education endorsement.

