

**Summary of Requirements to Be a Highly Qualified
Special Education Teacher¹**

Category of special education teachers	Requirements under P.L. 108-446
All special education teachers	<p>Hold at least a B.A.</p> <p>Must obtain full state special education certification or equivalent licensure</p> <p>Cannot hold an emergency or temporary certificate</p>
New or veteran elementary school teachers teaching one or more core academic subjects only to children with disabilities held to alternative academic standards (most severely cognitively disabled)	In addition to the general requirements above, may demonstrate academic subject competence through “a high objective uniform State standard of evaluation” (the HOUSSE process)
New or veteran middle or high school teachers teaching one or more core academic subjects only to children with disabilities held to alternative academic standards (most severely cognitively disabled)	In addition to the general requirements above, may demonstrate “subject matter knowledge appropriate to the level of instruction being provided, as determined by the State, needed to effectively teach to those standards”
New teachers of two or more academic subjects who are highly qualified in either mathematics, language arts, or science	In addition to the general requirements above, has two-year window in which to become highly qualified in the other core academic subjects and may do this through the HOUSSE process
Veteran teachers who teach two or more core academic subjects only to children with disabilities	In addition to the general requirements above, may demonstrate academic subject competence through the HOUSSE process (including a single evaluation for all core academic subjects)
Consultative teachers and other special education teachers who do not teach core academic subjects	Only meet general requirements above
Other special education teachers teaching core academic subjects	In addition to the general requirements above, meet relevant ESEA requirements for new elementary school teachers, new middle/high school teachers, or veteran teachers

¹ Source: Congressional Research Service