

Limited Extensions to Teach a Subject in a Special Class in Grades 7-12

The limited extension is a credential from the NY State Education Department that enables eligible special education teachers to be certified in a subject area while they teach a special class (self-contained) in grades 7-12 .

Limited extensions in each subject area are valid for five years. They may be renewed once for an additional five years if the extension holder completes at least three semester hours of coursework in the subject area of the limited extension. Limited extensions are only valid in a special class.

The limited extension is available in the following subject areas: biology, chemistry, earth science, English Language Arts, general science, languages other than English, mathematics, physics, and social studies. A separate application is needed for each subject area.

Requirements

In order to qualify for the limited extension, a teacher must:

1. Hold one of the following New York State Teaching Certificates:

- Initial or Professional Students with Disabilities (Grades 7-12) Generalist or Content Specialist
- Initial or Professional Students with Disabilities (Grades 5-9) Generalist or Content Specialist
- Permanent Special Education

2. Complete one of the following options:

Option 1: Have at least two years of satisfactory, full-time special education teaching experience in a special class with students in grades 7-12 in the subject area of the limited extension sought prior to June 30, 2021, during which time the teachers would have been considered Highly Qualified through passing a HOUSSE rubric in the subject area of the limited extension sought. Note that:

- The years of experience do not need to be contiguous.
- Special education teachers need to complete at least one teaching assignment in a special class in grades 7-12 in the subject area of the limited extension sought during each academic year (e.g., one period for an entire semester or year), while under full-time employment.
- The experience must be completed after August 1, 2003, when the HOUSSE rubric first became available in New York State.
- The experience must be in a special class in grades 7-12 in the subject area of the limited extension sought, with some or no students under alternate assessment. Other teaching assignments are not acceptable, such as co-teaching, resource room, consultant teacher, and teaching a special class with all students under alternate assessment.
- The experience must have taken place in New York State.

- Special education teachers do not need to have a teaching assignment in a special class in grades 7-12 on the date of their limited extension application, but they do need to be currently employed in a public school or other school for which teacher certification is required to teach a special class.

Option 2: Pass the content specialty test in the subject area.

Option 3: Pass an industry accepted exam in the subject area.

Option 4: Complete at least 9 semester hours of coursework in the subject area (this is typically equivalent to three 3-credit courses).

Option 5: Complete at least 45 hours of acceptable CTLE in the subject area and either:

- Have at least two years of satisfactory teaching experience in grades 7-12 in the subject area or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department, **OR**
- Have an employment and support commitment from a public school district or a State-supported or State-operated school or private school established under 853 of the Laws of 1976 submitted online through TEACH that verifies the teacher will be employed in a special class for the period of the limited extension and includes a plan from the school or school district for mentoring and appropriate instructional support from a teacher in the school or school district who holds a professional or permanent certificate and is certified in the subject area in which the limited extension is sought. Mentoring must include regular, ongoing collaboration between the teachers and types of mentoring activities may include, but are not limited to, modeling instruction, observing instruction, instructional co-planning, peer coaching, and team coaching.

3. Complete the following workshops: [Child Abuse Identification and Reporting](#), [School Violence Intervention and Prevention](#), [Dignity for All Students Act](#), and [Autism](#)

4. Complete the fingerprint clearance.

Next Steps

Principals and teachers should discuss if there is interest in applying for the limited extension to help meet the needs of special class students in the school. Your HR Director may be required to submit supporting documentation to the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

More information on the Limited Certificate and how to apply is available on the [NYSED website](#).