
FY26 ACT 173 SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SECTION D – SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL SURVEY

Purpose

The Special Education Personnel Survey, consisting of Part 1 and Part 2 of Section D of the FY26 Act 173 Special Education Plan, is designed to fulfill two purposes:

1. To count the full-time equivalents (FTEs) of employed or contracted special education teachers, paraprofessionals, and related service personnel for the 2024-2025 school year as required by the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) in order for the state to receive its federal IDEA-B funds; and
2. To help the Vermont Agency of Education determine the extent of special education personnel shortages.

Section D is available as a downloadable Excel spreadsheet on the [Agency of Education website](#). Part 1 and Part 2 of the Section D spreadsheet should be completed for the entire Supervisory Union/District. For questions about completing the Special Education Personnel Survey, please email Cassidy.Canzani@vermont.gov. In September 2024, each business manager will receive an email invite with a link to drop forms B and D into a secure SharePoint site for submitting to AOE. If you do not receive this invite, or require access given to an additional staff member, please email your request to AOE.SpecialEducationFinance@vermont.gov.

The entire document should be submitted as an Excel spreadsheet into the secure SharePoint site by November 15, 2024.

Summary of Changes

No changes from FY25 to FY26.

Reminder: Due to a change in reporting requirements implemented by OSEP and the EdFacts Initiative in FY22, special education teachers and paraprofessionals who teach five-year-olds in kindergarten are to be reported with the school-aged group. The age groups for special education teachers are ages 3 to 5-in-pre-k and ages 5-in-kindergarten to 21.



Definitions for Section D

Special Education Teacher:

For the purposes of this data collection, OSEP is defining a special education teacher as a teacher employed or contracted to provide special education to children with disabilities. This includes preschool teachers, itinerant/consulting teachers, home/hospital teachers, and teachers of children with disabilities in separate schools and facilities. This definition DOES NOT include regular education teachers who work with children with disabilities. **Please note: speech-language pathologists are reported in Part 2, not in Part 1.**

Special Education Paraprofessional:

For the purposes of this data collection, OSEP is defining special education paraprofessionals as employees who provide instructional support, including those who:

- Agency Provide one-on-one tutoring if such tutoring is scheduled at a time when a student would not otherwise receive instruction from a teacher;
- Assist with classroom management, such as organizing instructional and other materials;
- Provide instructional assistance in a computer laboratory;
- Conduct parental involvement activities;
- Provide support in a library or media center;
- Act as a translator; and/or
- Provide instructional support services under the direct supervision of a teacher.

This definition DOES NOT include regular education paraprofessionals who work with special education children.

Vacant Positions:

For Parts 1 and 2, report the number of unfilled vacancies in funded positions that exist during the school year. Do not count positions that are filled by personnel not fully qualified or fully certified, as these positions are already counted. Do not count any vacancies for which funds are not available.

Fully Certified:

Report **special education teachers and other related services personnel staff** who meet the existing Vermont state standards or requirements (certification or licensure) for the position held. Please note that a Provisional License does not meet this criterion. If there are no Vermont state requirements for the position, then count the FTE as fully certified.

Qualification Status Reporting

FTE is reported as either fully certified or not fully certified. Report teachers as fully certified based on the following qualifications:

A person employed as a special education teacher in the State who teaches elementary school, middle school, or secondary school:

- Has obtained full State certification as a special education teacher (including certification obtained through participating in an alternate route to certification as a special educator, if such alternate route meets minimum requirements described in section 200.56(a)(2)(ii) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations, as such section was in effect on November 28, 2008), or passed the State special education teacher licensing examination, and holds a license to teach in the State as a special education teacher, except with respect to any teacher teaching in a public charter school who shall meet the requirements set forth in the State's public charter school law;
- Has not had special education certification or licensure requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis; and
- Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

Report teachers who do not meet the qualifications for fully certified (as listed above) for the position in which they are employed as not fully certified.

Not Fully Certified:

Report special education teachers and other related services personnel staff who do not meet the existing Vermont state standards or requirements (certification or licensure) required for the position held as not fully certified. This includes staff employed on an emergency or provisional basis and may include long-term substitutes.

Fully Qualified:

Special education **paraprofessionals** who fully satisfy the SU/SD requirements to work with students should be reported as fully qualified. If there are no requirements for the position, then count the FTE as fully qualified.

Not Fully Qualified:

If a special education **paraprofessional** does **not** fully satisfy the Vermont State and SU/SD qualifications, they should be reported as not fully qualified.

Total Demand:

The Total Demand FTE in Parts 1 and 2 is the sum of Column 1(a), Column 1(b), and Column 2.

Reporting Employed or Contracted Personnel

For the purposes of this data collection, "employed" refers to employees that are employed or contracted.

Report the FTE on only the percentage of time the employee works specifically with children with disabilities receiving special education and related services.

How To Calculate FTEs

1. The first step in making an FTE calculation for an individual teacher, paraprofessional, or other staff member (regardless of certification/qualification status) is to define how many hours are in 1.0 FTE in the school district where he/she is employed or contracted. As an example, consider a hypothetical school district, School District Alpha, where there are 6.5 hours in a full-time workday and 175 workdays in a school year. In this example, the number of hours in 1.0 FTE would be 1,137.5 (6.5 hours in a day multiplied by 175 days in a school year). For your calculation, use the hours per day and days per school year that are typical for the school district.
2. After defining the number of hours in 1.0 FTE, the next step is to determine how many hours a particular staff member works over the course of a school year. As an example, consider a special education teacher, Mary, who works in School District Alpha. If Mary works 3 hours per day for 175 days, then her total hours worked for the year are 525 (3 hours per day multiplied by 175 days).
3. The final step in determining the FTE value for a particular teacher or staff member is to divide the total number of hours the staff member worked by your calculation for the number of hours in 1.0 FTE. For example, the FTE value for Mary would be 0.46 (525 hours worked per year divided by 1,137.5 hours for a 1.0 FTE).
4. Note that the calculation of FTE values is the same for all staff whether they work under a negotiated agreement or a separate service contract. If an occupational therapist, Robert, were contracted by School District Alpha to work 5 hours per day for 20 days during the school year, the FTE value would be 0.0879 (100 hours worked per year divided by 1,137.5 hours for a 1.0 FTE).
5. Round the number so that there are only two digits after the decimal point. In the above example, the 0.0879 would be rounded to 0.09.

Part 1

Please enter the full-time equivalent (FTE) values in each column for all special education teachers and special education paraprofessionals employed or contracted during school year 2024-2025 by the Supervisory Union/District and all its member

school districts. The FTEs need to be divided between the two age group categories of children with disabilities (ages 3 to 5-in-pre-K and ages 5-in-Kindergarten to 21) and between highly certified/qualified and not highly certified/qualified based on the definitions for this data collection (see Definitions for Section D above).

Special Education Teachers Section

To complete Column 1, it may be easiest to start with the FTE for each of the special education teachers employed or contracted for the school year. The FTEs for special education teachers need to be divided between time spent providing services to the two age groups (ages 3 to 5-in-pre-K and ages 5-in-Kindergarten to 21). The next step is to determine what FTE the special education teacher is fully certified or not (see definitions on page 2). Fully certified means that the special education teacher has unconditional Vermont license. This excludes those with Provisional Licenses. The FTE for vacant positions is shown under Column 2 and the Total Demand is the total of the columns to the left.

Special Education Paraprofessionals Section

Special education paraprofessionals who fully satisfy SU/SD requirements to work with students should be reported as fully qualified. If a special education paraprofessional does not fully satisfy SU/SD qualifications, they should be reported as not fully qualified. The FTE count is further divided between the two age groups (ages 3 to 5-in-pre-K and ages 5-in-Kindergarten to 21) based on the time spent providing services for each. The FTE for vacant positions is shown under Column 2, and the Total Demand is the total of the columns to the left.

Data Notes

1. When completing Vacant Positions (Column 2), only include FTEs of funded unfilled vacancies that existed during the school year. Do not count positions, which are filled by personnel not fully qualified as these positions are already counted. Do not count any vacancies for which funds are not available.
2. Speech-language pathologists should NOT be included in Part 1. Speech-language pathologists are included in Part 2: Other Special Education and Related Service Personnel.
3. DO NOT include regular education teachers who work with children with disabilities in this section.
4. Include all teachers and paraprofessionals employed or contracted to provide services.
5. Round all responses to the nearest two decimal points. For example, 1.345 should be recorded as 1.35.

Part 2

Enter FTE values in each column for all fully certified and not fully certified other special education and related service personnel employed or contracted to provide special education services to children with disabilities ages 3-21 for school year 2024-2025, including the Supervisory Union/District and all its member school districts. Do not include any teachers or paraprofessionals reported in Part 1. All special education staff should be shown either on Part 1 or on Part 2 but should not be reported on both, as that would result in duplication of the staff counts. Speech-language pathologists are reported in Part 2, not in Part 1.

Report the FTE on only the percentage of time the other special education and related service personnel work specifically with children with disabilities receiving special education and related services. If related service personnel work part of their time with children without disabilities, and other times with children with disabilities, report only the proportion of their FTE that the related service personnel works specifically with children with disabilities receiving special education and related services.

Report the FTE of staff employed or contracted for each category divided between fully certified and not fully certified. Fully certified staff in Column 1(a) include those staff meeting the existing Vermont state standards or requirements (certification or licensure) for the position held. If there are no Vermont state requirements for the position, then count the FTE as fully certified.

Report as not fully certified staff those staff not meeting the existing Vermont state standards or requirements (certification or licensure) required for the position held. This includes staff employed on an emergency or provisional basis and may include long-term substitutes.

Please refer to the Part 2 Definitions section to review definitions of related service personnel.

Data Notes

1. Include other special education and related service personnel employed or contracted to provide services. See the Part 2 Definitions section for definitions of positions that are in this category.
2. All special education staff should be shown either Part 1 or Part 2 but should not be reported on both, as that would result in duplication of the staff counts.
3. When completing Vacant Positions (Column 2), only include FTEs of funded, unfilled vacancies that exist during the school year. Do not count positions that are filled by personnel not fully certified as these positions are already counted. Do not count any vacancies for which funds are not available.
4. In rows 18 and 19 (Other Professional Staff and Other Nonprofessional Staff), include an unduplicated FTE count of all professional and nonprofessional personnel

providing special education and related services for children with disabilities not reported in Part 1 or elsewhere in Part 2 (this part).

5. Round all responses to the nearest two decimal points. For example, 1.345 should be recorded as 1.35.

PART 2 DEFINITIONS

Definitions by row for the Other Special Education and Related Service Personnel categories reported in Part 2 are as follows:

Row 1: Speech-Language Pathologists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY speech-language pathologists providing the following services to children with disabilities:

- Identification of children with speech or language impairments;
- Diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language impairments;
- Referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language impairments;
- Provision of speech and language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative impairments; and/or
- Counseling and guidance of parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.

Row 2: Vocational Education Teachers

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ONLY those vocational educational teachers employed specifically to work with children with disabilities.

DO NOT include vocational education teachers employed to work with all students, i.e., students with and without disabilities.

Row 3: Physical Education Teachers

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY physical education teachers who provide special physical education, adaptive physical education, movement education, or motor development to children with disabilities.

Row 4: Work-Study Coordinators

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ONLY those work-study coordinators employed specifically to work with children with disabilities.

DO NOT include work-study coordinators employed to work with all students, i.e., students with and without disabilities.

Row 5: Psychologists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY psychologists who provide the following services to children with disabilities or in evaluations for special education eligibility:

- Administering psychological and educational tests, and other assessment procedures;
- Interpreting assessment results;
- Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and conditions relation to learning;
- Consulting with other staff member in planning school program to meet the special needs of children as indicated by psychological tests, interviews, and behavioral evaluations;
- Planning and managing a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents; and/or
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

Row 6: School Social Workers

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ONLY those social workers employed specifically to work with children with disabilities who provide the following services:

- Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability;
- Group and individual counseling with the child and family;
- Working in partnership with parents and others on those problems in a child's living situation (home, school, or community) that affect the child's adjustment in school;
- Mobilizing school and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her education program; and/or
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies.

DO NOT include social workers employed to work with all students, i.e., students with and without disabilities.

Row 7: Behavior Specialists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ONLY those behavior specialists employed specifically to work with children with disabilities.

DO NOT include behavior specialists employed to work with all students, i.e., students with and without disabilities.

Row 8: Occupational Therapists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY occupational therapists that provide the following services to children with disabilities:

- Improving, developing, or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation;
- Improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning if functions are impaired or lost; and/or
- Preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function.

Row 9: Audiologists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY audiologists who provide the following services to children with disabilities:

- Identification of children with hearing loss;
- Determination of the range, nature, and degree of hearing loss, including referral for medical or other professional attention for the habilitation of hearing;
- Provision of habilitative activities, such as language habilitation, auditory training, speech reading (lip-reading), hearing evaluation, and speech conservation;
- Creation and administration of programs for prevention of hearing loss;
- Counseling and guidance of children, parents, and teacher regarding hearing loss; and/or
- Determination of the children's needs for group and individual amplification, selecting and fitting an appropriate aid, and evaluating the effectiveness of amplification.

Row 10: Recreation and Therapeutic Recreation Specialists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY recreation and therapeutic recreation specialists who provide the following services to children with disabilities:

- Assessment of leisure function;
- Therapeutic recreation services;
- Recreation programs in schools and community agencies; and/or
- Leisure education.

Row 11: Medical/Nursing Services

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY personnel providing:

- Medical services for diagnostic and evaluation purposes provided to determine whether a child has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services that the child needs; and/or
- Nursing services designed to enable a child with a disability to receive FAPE as described in the child's IEP, with the exception of services related to medical devices that are surgically implanted (e.g., cochlear implants).

DO NOT report personnel in this row who have been reported elsewhere.

Row 12: Physical Therapists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY physical therapists that provide the following services to children with disabilities:

- Screening, evaluation, and assessment of children to identify movement dysfunction;
- Obtaining, interpreting, and integrating information appropriate to program planning to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems; and/or
- Providing individual and group services or treatment to prevent, alleviate, or compensate for movement dysfunction and related functional problems.

Row 13: Counselors

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ONLY those counselors employed specifically to work with children with disabilities.

DO NOT include counselors employed to work with all students, i.e., students with and without disabilities.

Row 14: Supervisors/Administrators

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of supervisors/administrators providing special education and related services to children with disabilities ages 3-21. Include school district and Supervisory Union/District special education professionals whose activities are concerned with directing and managing the operation of a particular special education school or program.

Row 15: Interpreters

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY interpreters, who provide services to children with a hearing loss disability, including:

- Oral transliteration services;
- Cued language transliteration services; and/or
- Sign language interpreting services.

Row 16: Rehabilitation Counselors

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY rehabilitation counselors who provide services in individual or group sessions that focus specifically on career development, employment preparation, achieving independence, and integration in the workplace and community of a student with a disability. The term also includes vocational rehabilitation programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended.

Row 17: Orientation and Mobility Specialists

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of ANY personnel providing orientation and mobility services, including:

- Services provided to blind or visually-impaired students to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community; and/or
- Teaching students the following, as appropriate:
 - Spatial and environmental concepts and use of information received by the senses (such as sound, temperature, and vibrations) to establish, maintain, or regain orientation and line of travel;
 - To use the long cane to supplement visual travel skills or as a tool for safely negotiating the environment for students with no available travel vision;
 - To understand and use remaining vision and distance low vision aids; and/or
 - Other concepts, techniques, and tools.

Row 18: Other Professional Staff

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of all professional personnel providing special education and related services for children with disabilities not reported in Part 1 or elsewhere in Part 2.

Row 19: Other Nonprofessional Staff

Provide an unduplicated FTE count of all non-professional personnel providing special education and related services for children with disabilities not reported in Part 1 or elsewhere in Part 2.