
Provisional Licensure for ECSE and K-12 Special Educators

August 1, 2022

In response to staffing shortages exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vermont Standards Board for Professional Educators (VSBPE) is supporting alternate pathways to receiving a provisional license with a special education or early childhood special education (ECSE) endorsement through a temporary waiver. In order to expand the applicant pool to include unlicensed educational professionals who have demonstrated their ability to provide high quality special education services in the classroom, but do not have the required coursework for provisional licensure, districts can now request a temporary provisional license, with certain stipulations.

Who is eligible for a temporary special education license?

An applicant must meet all of the following requirements:

1. A minimum of a bachelor's degree
2. A passing score on the Praxis II assessment for special education within 120 days of issuance of the license
3. An assigned mentor who has agreed to participate in an AOE-sponsored mentor training
4. Completion of an AOE-identified introductory series of special education modules
5. Admittance to an approved pathway to special education licensure

Can I apply for this provisional waiver on my own?

No. When offered a position, the hiring superintendent will apply for the provisional waiver on your behalf.

Elsewhere, your website shows that the Praxis II is not required for a special education endorsement. Please explain.

In general, there is no requirement for a passing score on the Praxis II for special education; however, as this waiver provides for a provisional license for educators who would not otherwise qualify, a passing score on the Praxis II (a minimum score of 145 on test number 5354 for Special Education or 159 on test number 5691 for Early Childhood Special Education) is required to ensure that candidates are able to support our most vulnerable students. Applicants are strongly encouraged to utilize ETS's study materials, including the low-cost interactive practice tests and develop a study plan in advance of taking the full test. Free practice tests for 5354 are also available through the Vermont [Department of Libraries](#) for those who hold a public library card anywhere in the State of Vermont.

Is there a list of approved pathways to special education licensure?

Yes. The table below outlines approved programs in Vermont with a few details on the unique design of each. Additionally, there is a link to each program and respective contact person.

Pathways to Special Education Licensure in Vermont

Licensure Pathway	Degree	Timeline	Weekend Courses?	Evening Courses?	Online Courses?	Hybrid Courses?	In-person Courses?	Contact	Availability
Higher Education Collaborative (VTHEC)	No, but earn up to 18 credits toward MA	2 years	Yes	Yes	Most online or hybrid. Weekend in-person	Most online or hybrid. Weekend in-person	Most online or hybrid. Weekend in-person	Joy Wilcox	Full for Fall '22; looking for additional instructors and option to take coursework out of sequence so program can be started immediately. Will make spots available in current cohort through attrition.
Northern Vermont University/ Vermont State University (NVU/VTSU)	Postbac and graduate degree options	2 years, but depends on individual circumstances	Yes. Most synchronous in the evening	Yes. Most synchronous in the evening	Yes. Most synchronous in the evening	Yes. Most synchronous in the evening	No.	Rob Schulze 802/635.1305	Open spots for this fall. Rolling admissions until 2 weeks before classes begin. Candidates usually begin in the fall semester. If begin in spring, summer, or fall the sequence of courses might be altered.
Peer Review	No	One year, with option for one-year extension	N/A	N/A Evening panels	N/A	N/A	N/A	Ryan McCormick	Ongoing throughout the year
Saint Michael's College (SMCVT)	Postbac and graduate degree options	One year (May to May) for MAT; can be completed part-time	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Amy Saks Pavese	Availability for fall start with earliest completion in May 2024. (Can only complete in one-year if start in May.)
University of Vermont (UVM)	Yes	2 years; option for accelerated program	No	Yes	Online, hybrid, in-person	Online, hybrid, in-person	Online, hybrid, in-person	Colby Kervick	Spring '23 start deadline is Nov. 1. Some courses have openings for fall and can be taken through continuing education in advance of matriculation.

How can I assure that I am assigned a mentor who has agreed to participate in an AOE-sponsored mentor training program?

Assigning a mentor is the responsibility of the hiring school district. The sponsoring district ensures that the assigned mentor is enrolled in the mentor training program. Please reach out to Sienna Tuinei (Sienna.Tuinei@partner.vermont.gov) with specific questions.

For how long would this provisional license be valid?

The provisional license will expire on 30 June 2024. This gives an educator two school years to complete the requirements for a professional license.

Can it be extended if I have not yet completed these requirements?

The VSBPE can vote to extend the license of an additional one year if they feel there are extenuating circumstances.

Are there limitations on my job responsibilities if I am teaching under this temporary provisional license?

No. You are considered a special educator of record. While districts will have discretion to determine job responsibilities, it is anticipated that Directors of Special Education and/or licensed mentors will be primarily responsible for highly technical services such as writing IEPs and student evaluations until mentees have completed the appropriate training and/or coursework.

What are the modules I am required to complete?

All educators issued a temporary special education provisional license must complete a defined introductory series of special education modules within 30 days of issuance of a license. The learning modules serve as an orientation to special education for applicants and will supplement classroom experience and on-site support. The modules focus on the history of special education legislation and the foundations of pedagogical practice. Additionally, the modules orient novice special educators to research-based practices to utilize in the classroom and in collaboration with colleagues and families. A full list of the required modules is below. We estimate that completion of the full series will take about 25 hours and all modules are available at no charge.

Read: [The History of Special Education Law in the United States](#)

View:

- [What Every Educator Should Know About Special Education Law](#)
- [Accessing the General Education Curriculum: Inclusion Considerations for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [Evidence-Based Practices \(Part 1\): Identifying and Selecting a Practice or Program](#)
- [Evidence-Based Practices \(Part 2\): Implementing a Practice or Program with Fidelity](#)
- [Evidence-Based Practices \(Part 3\): Evaluating Learner Outcomes and Fidelity](#)
- [IEPs: Developing High-Quality Individualized Education Programs](#)
- [Related Services: Common Supports for Students with Disabilities](#)
- [What Do You See? Perceptions of Disability](#)
- [Providing Instructional Supports: Facilitating Mastery of New Skills](#)
- [Assistive Technology: An Overview](#)
- [Secondary Transition: Helping Students with Disabilities Plan for Post-High School Settings](#)
- [Addressing Disruptive and Noncompliant Behaviors \(Part 1\): Understanding the Acting-Out Cycle](#)
- [Addressing Disruptive and Noncompliant Behaviors \(Part 2\): Behavioral Interventions](#)

I see there are a number of deadlines built into this license. How is my progress toward completion monitored?

The module series will issue a certificate or other acknowledgement upon successful completion of the full series. Once you complete all of the modules, please either upload the certificate or other evidence of completion in your ALiS account; then, notify your licensing specialist that the modules are complete. Upon achieving a passing score on the relevant Praxis II exam, please have ETS send a score report the Vermont Agency of Education.

What if there are delays in my completion of these requirements?

You may reach out to your assigned licensing specialist to request an extension. Extension requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete these requirements.