



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Eric G. Mackey, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

January 12, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: County and City Superintendents of Education

FROM: Eric G. Mackey *EGM*
State Superintendent of Education

SUBJECT: A New Approach for Preparing Special Education Teachers for Students in Grades 6-12

I am pleased to tell you that beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, we will provide another option for individuals to earn a Class B certificate endorsed for Collaborative Special Education (6-12). The option is similar to the Provisional Certificate in a Teaching Field (PCTF) but tailored for special education to comply with federal guidelines. To date, I have authorized three universities (Jacksonville State University, Troy University, and University of Alabama in Huntsville) to provide this new approach, and I anticipate that other colleges/universities will be approved to do so. Although members of my staff are still working out the details, the following is basic information that may help you plan for next year:

1. An applicant for the first Temporary Special Education Certificate must:
 - (a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
 - (b) Meet GPA requirements applicable to the PCTF approach.
 - (c) Document enrollment in at least one course provided by a college or university approved to provide this approach.
2. We will issue up to three, one-year certificates at your request for a person who is making progress toward completing this approach.
3. A person will be eligible to receive a Class B certificate endorsed for Collaborative Special Education (Grades 6-12) based on documentation of:
 - (a) At least one full year of full-time special education teaching experience in Grades 6-12 while holding a Temporary Special Education Certificate.
 - (b) Credit for a bundle of five courses taken from one college/university and approved to address five major topics: survey of special education, collaboration/consultation, methods and assessment, special education laws, and behavior analysis/modification.
 - (c) A passing score on the Praxis test for special education.

Please anticipate the receipt of additional information about this new option. We would like to provide this option for elementary special education teachers, but we must first determine how to address reading coursework requirements applicable to new elementary teachers.

EGM/JAM/HMS

cc: Deans of Education Mrs. Shanthia Washington Dr. Jayne A. Meyer
Mrs. Angela Martin Dr. DaLee Chambers Ms. Shavon Y. Harris

FY22-2026

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