NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION
EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2020
The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher
education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a
subscription link are available online on the OHE website.
BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT AREA CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS WHO TEACH A
SPECIAL CLASS IN GRADES 7-12
In response to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), effective July 1, 2020, all certified special education
teachers who teach one or more subject areas in a special class in grades 7-12, with some or no students under
alternate assessment, must either: x Be certified in each subject area that they teach, or x Meet the teaching experience requirement for the statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) and have
an active SOCE application in the TEACH online system in each subject area that they teach.

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