



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Proposed Students with Disabilities (All Grades) Certificate

May 16, 2022

Special Education Teacher Shortage

There is a persistent shortage of special education teachers based on:

Teaching
Assignment
Data

Feedback from
the Field

The shortage is particularly an issue at the secondary level and in special classes.

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Certificates

The Department is proposing to address the special education teacher shortage by creating a SWD (All Grades) certificate.

Current

Initial SWD certificates are issued in the following three grade bands:

- Birth-Grade 2
- Grades 1-6
- Grades 7-12

Proposal

Issue SWD certificates in the following two grade bands, after a transition period:

- Birth-Grade 2
- All Grades (PK-Grade 12)

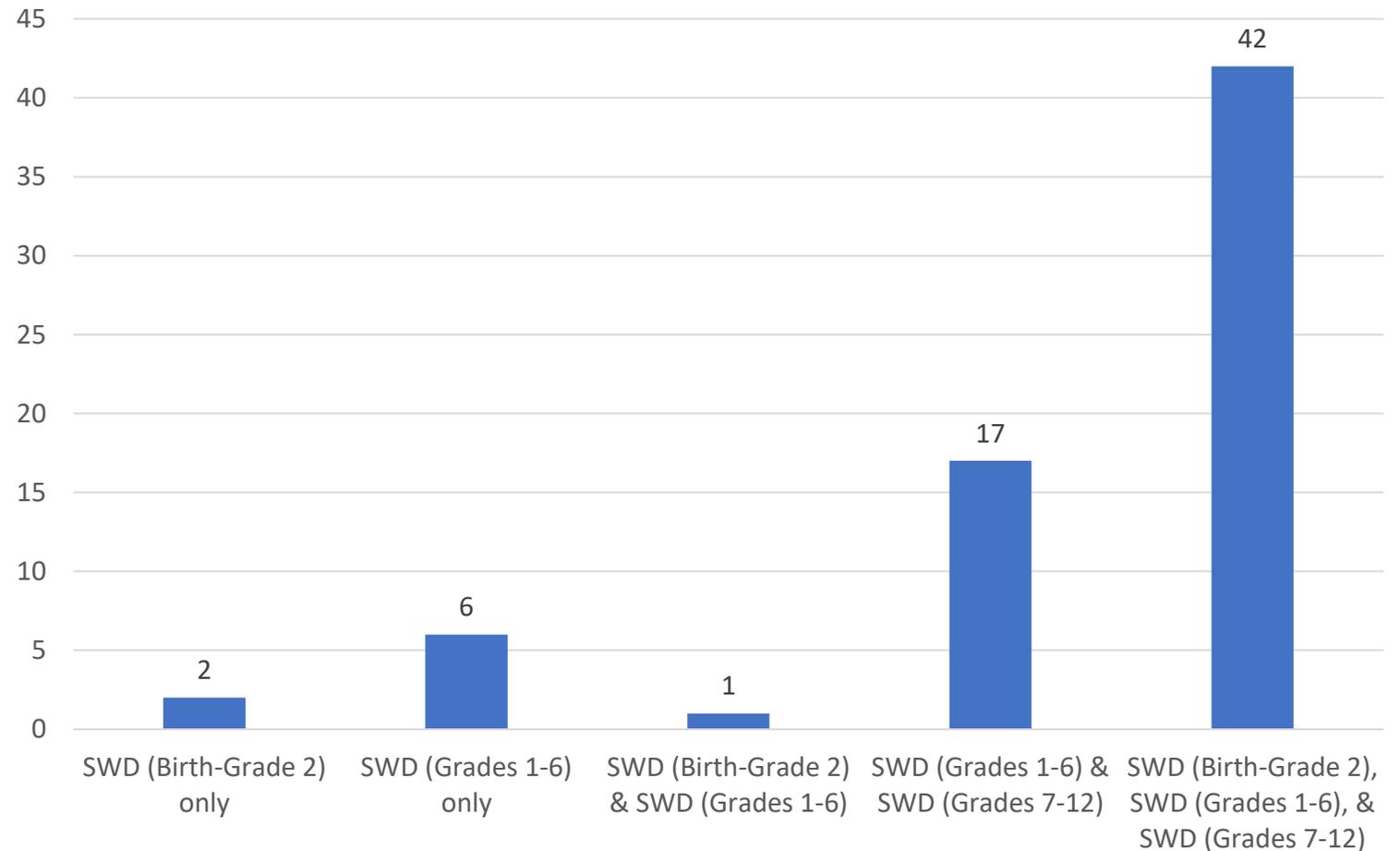
Special Education Certification in Other States

The following table shows the special education certificate grade levels in 9 comparable (CA, FL, IL, TX) and surrounding (CT, MA, NJ, PA, VT) states.

Special Education Certificate Grade Levels	Out of 9 Comparator and Surrounding States
All grades	8
Early childhood	5
Elementary/Middle and Middle/Secondary	2

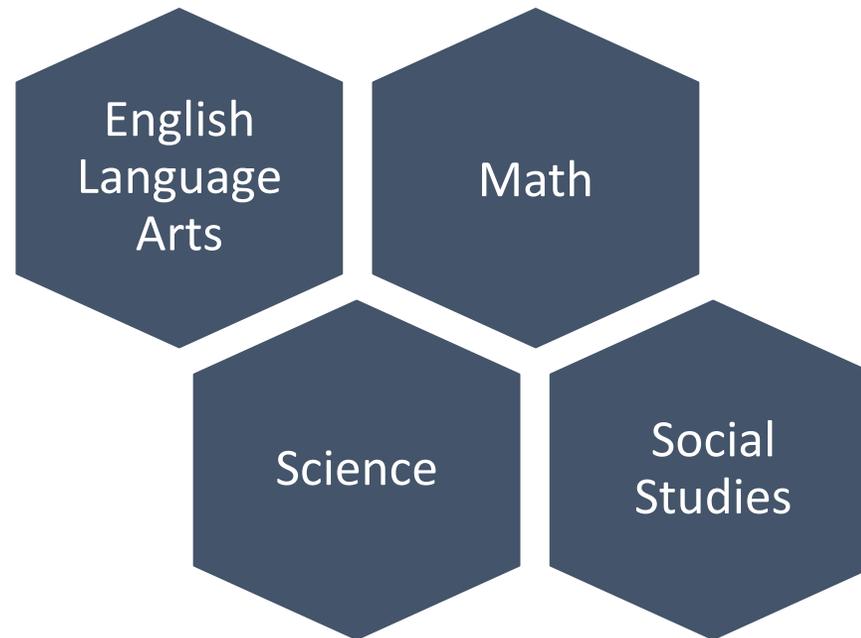
NYS Registered Students with Disabilities Programs

Number of NYS Colleges and Universities with Registered Students with Disabilities (SWD) Programs (n = 68)



SWD (All Grades) Programs and Certificate – Content Core Requirements

Candidates would complete 30 semester hours in one or more of the liberal arts and sciences, and a minimum of six semester hours in each of the following subject areas.



The pedagogical core for programs leading to the proposed SWD (All Grades) certificate would include:

SWD (All Grades) Programs – Pedagogical Core Requirements



SAME COURSEWORK TOPICS
AS CURRENT SWD
PROGRAMS, BUT BROADER
DEVELOPMENTAL LEVEL



STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
WHO ARE CULTURALLY AND
LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE



CLINICAL EXPERIENCES,
INCLUDING STUDENT TEACHING

SWD (All Grades) Certificate –Tests

Candidates would need to pass the following three certification tests that are currently required for SWD certificates:

Educating All
Students (EAS)
Test

Students with
Disabilities CST

Multi-Subject
Test (Options)

Subject Area Extension for Special Education Teachers

The Department is also proposing to revise the subject area extension for special education teachers in grades 5-9 or grades 7-12, which can be used to teach a special class.

Current

18 semester hours in the subject area
AND
passing the Content Specialty Test in
the subject area

Proposal

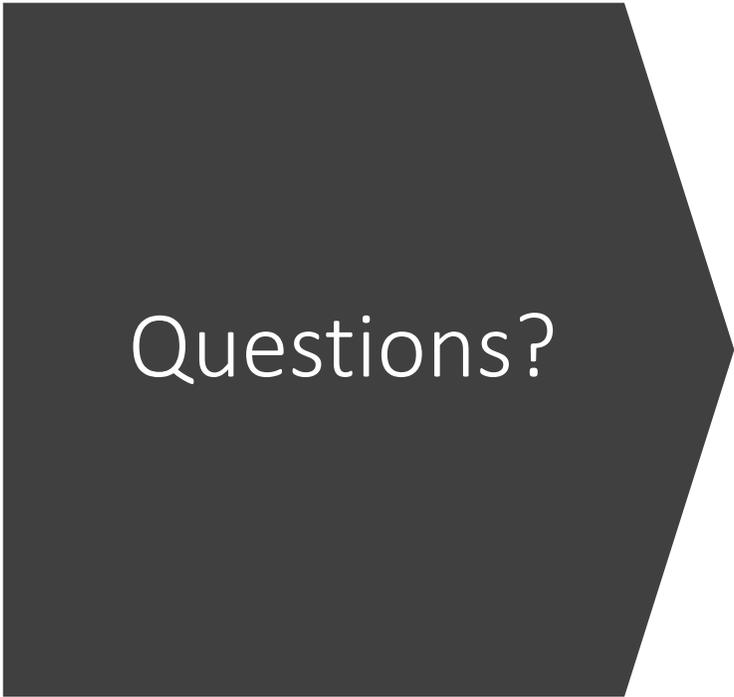
12 semester hours in the subject area
OR
passing the Content Specialty Test in
the subject area

Implementation Timeline

Date	Activity
Effective date of the proposal	Individuals could apply for a SWD (All Grades) certificate, and the Department could begin registering programs leading to this certificate.
October 1, 2022	The Department would no longer register new programs leading to the current SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates.
September 1, 2023	Candidates could apply for the current SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates through the individual evaluation pathway prior to this date.

Implementation Timeline Continued

Date	Activity
September 1, 2024	By this date or at the time a new program is registered, whichever occurs first, the pedagogical core in SWD (Birth-Grade 2) programs must include developing comprehensive knowledge, understanding, and skills for teaching students with disabilities who are culturally and linguistically diverse.
September 1, 2029	Current SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) programs would no longer be registered with the Department.
September 1, 2030	The Department would no longer issue current SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates with an effective date that begins after September 1, 2030, with the exception of the Professional certificate and reissuance of an Initial certificate.

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Questions?