Michigan Highly Qualified Special Education Guide

Are you a special education teacher who is the sole provider of direct instruction at the elementary level or any of the following core subject areas: English, reading, language arts, mathematics, science, foreign language, political science, economics, history, geography or the arts at the middle or secondary level?

YES

Do you have a minimum of a Bachelor’s Degree?

YES

NO: You do not need to meet the Highly Qualified requirement.

NO: You are not considered Highly Qualified.

NO

Do you have a Michigan special education endorsement on a valid Michigan teaching certificate; OR are you working under a valid Michigan permit or Temporary Approval?

YES

NO: You are not considered Highly Qualified.

NO

Is it your sole responsibility to provide consultative services to a core content teacher who has already met the NCLB Highly Qualified teacher requirements? (i.e. Co-teaching)

YES

YES: You do not need to meet the Highly Qualified requirement.

NO

Are you a special education teacher who teaches core academic subjects exclusively to students who are assessed against alternative achievement standards (Mi-ACCESS)?

YES

NO

Do you teach at the K-5 level or in a self-contained 6-8 setting?

YES: You should be considered Highly Qualified.

NO

Have you taken and passed the specific subject area Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC), or similar out-of-state exam, for each of the subject areas being taught?

YES

NO

Can you demonstrate competence in multiple core subjects you teach by successfully completing one or more of the High Objective State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE)?

YES

NO

YES: Under the IDEA flexibility. You have TWO YEARS from the date of hire to demonstrate Highly Qualified status for all the other subject areas you are teaching.

NO: You are not considered Highly Qualified.

Are you Highly Qualified in math, English/language arts OR science?

YES

NO

Are you a new teacher, within the last 2 years?

NO

YES: You should be considered Highly Qualified.

NO: You are not Highly Qualified.

Note: This document is to be used as a guide for determining whether a special education teacher may be considered Highly Qualified (HQ) under the No Child Left Behind Act, and is in no way confirmation of a teacher’s HQ status. Supporting documentation must be provided to the employing school district.

This document was fashioned after the NASDSE & NEA document titled “What Constitutes a Highly Qualified Special Education Teacher Under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004” dated 2/3/05.

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