



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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December 2019

TO: District Superintendents

## Certification Requirement

**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:

be certified in each subject area that they teach,

**Commissioner's regulations, whichever comes first, with the exception that the teaching experience requirement must be completed by June 30, 2020.** SOCE applications that are in ["Ready for Review" status](#) will automatically receive expedited service and will be reviewed in 1-2 weeks.

- *Application Fee.* Special education teachers would submit a separate [application in TEACH](#) for each subject area in which they are seeking a SOCE. For the SOCE, special education teachers would pay the \$100 application fee for the first subject area. If they are interested in receiving a SOCE in other subject areas, they would submit additional SOCE applications, but not pay the application fees.

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## Questions

For questions about special education teaching assignments, please contact the Office of Special Education at [speced@nysed.gov](mailto:speced@nysed.gov). If special education teachers have questions about certification requirements, they can contact the Office of Teaching Initiatives at [tcert@nysed.gov](mailto:tcert@nysed.gov).