

CAREERS IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)
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SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER



Typical Duties: A Special Education teacher conducts assessments, participates in developing instructional plans (Individualized Education Programs- IEPs), delivers services and evaluates progress of students with disabilities. Mild-Moderate disabilities may include: Specific Learning Disability, Speech-Language Impairment, or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Moderate-Severe disabilities include Mental Retardation, Autism, and other severe disabilities. Special Education teachers may teach a special class of students, work with students in their general education classes by collaborating and consulting with teachers, or work with students individually or in small groups.

Education: Special Education teachers must have a Bachelors Degree and typically one year of coursework beyond the bachelors, to include student teaching. After being hired, the teacher then has five years to complete another year of coursework. Special Education teachers also have to take and pass subject matter examinations in any subjects they will be teaching, unless they have a major in that subject.

Special Education credentials may be obtained in:

- Education Specialist- Mild-Moderate Disabilities (K-12th grade/adults)
- Education Specialist- Moderate-Severe Disabilities (K-12th grade/adults)
- Early Childhood Special Education (all disabilities) (Birth-pre-K)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Birth to age 22)
- Physical and Health Impairments (Birth to age 22)
- Visual Impairments (Birth to age 22)

Typical Pay: In Ventura County, typical pay for a Special Education teacher is \$38,000-\$70,000/year.

Benefits: All school districts have excellent health benefits as well as retirement plans. School employees usually work ten months per year, but in Special Education there is sometimes an option for additional work (4-5 weeks) in the summer.



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