



# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## Memorandum

**To:** Approved Private Special Education School Administrators  
**From:** Exceptional Student Services  
**Date:** April 24, 2024  
**Re:** Moderate/Severe Special Education Certification

In 2019, Private Special Education (SPED) Schools were given a temporary exception allowing certified special education teachers with two years of experience in a mild/moderate special education classroom to provide services in a moderate/severe special education classroom. This exception will expire on June 30, 2024.

New and existing Private SPED Schools will be required to follow the updated [Certification Matrix](#) for Fiscal Year 25. If a Private SPED School is unable to hire a moderate/severe certified teacher by July 1, 2024, appropriate personnel will be required to submit supporting documentation that they are making an effort to appropriately certify teachers. Private SPED Schools that do not meet this requirement will be allowed a one-year transition period if supporting documentation is provided.

The pathway to become qualified to teach in moderate/severe SPED classroom will depend on the teacher's educational background. Please refer to the [Special Education Certification Pathways guide](#).

- **If a teacher *does not have the required three years of full-time teaching and prerequisite certificate***, they will need to enroll in an alternative program and apply for the Alternative Teaching certificate. Please refer to the list of approved Moderate/Severe programs below.
- **If a teacher *has the prerequisite certificate and teaching experience***, they qualify for the Provisional or Full Moderate/Severe endorsement. Please refer to the list of approved Moderate/Severe programs below. The courses may also be found at other colleges and universities; however, teachers should confirm that the college or university will verify completion of the required practicum in moderate/severe SPED before enrolling.

Institution	Program Type	Education Prep Program (EPP) Name
<a href="#">Arizona State University</a>	Traditional	MLFTC – M.Ed. SPED Intensive Support Needs – Moderate/Severe SPED 12
<a href="#">Grand Canyon University</a>	Traditional	Masters of Education in SPED Moderate to Severe (ITL)
<a href="#">Iteach</a>	Alternative	Special Education Moderate to Severe Disabilities
<a href="#">University of Arizona</a>	Traditional	Master of Arts, Special Education Severe and Multiple Disabilities (Moderate to Severe Disabilities)

For more information, please visit the [Educator Certification and Career web page](#).

If you have any questions, please email the [ESS Private Day and ED-P inbox](#).