

With the most recent estimate of nationwide teacher shortages approaching two million, the issue of teacher recruitment has reached crisis proportions. The highly technical field of special education needs more than 82,000 qualified teachers and related services personnel to fill positions that now exist.

The National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education (NCPSE) provides information regarding the status of professions in special education and the related services. It also offers technical assistance to states, local school divisions, Colleges and Universities. NCPSE seeks to attract prospective special education professionals from high schools and preservice training programs and individuals making mid-career changes.

Please visit our web site for more information and links to Colleges and Universities with programs meeting the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards for preparation and certification of Special Education Teachers.



[www.special-ed-careers.org](http://www.special-ed-careers.org)

If you would like more information about becoming a special educator please contact:

**National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education**  
1110 N. Glebe Rd. Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201

phone: 800.641.7824

tty: 866.915.5000

fax: 703.264.1637

[www.special-ed-careers.org](http://www.special-ed-careers.org)

[ncpse@cec.sped.org](mailto:ncpse@cec.sped.org)

This product was developed by the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education (NCPSE). The National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education is the descriptive title for the National Clearinghouse on Careers and Professions Related to Early Intervention and Education for Children with Disabilities; Cooperative Agreement H326P980002, between the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Exceptional Children. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of either the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Exceptional Children. This information is in the public domain, unless otherwise indicated. Readers are encouraged to copy and share it, but please credit the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education.

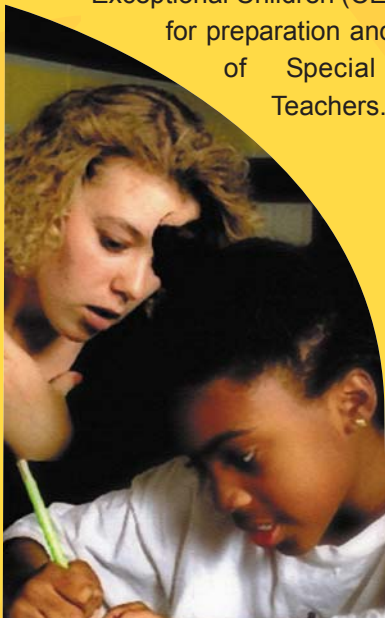
U.S. Department of Education  
Project Officer Martha B. Bokee



# Special educators

Delivering on the Promise

**financial aid  
to become one**



Students interested in becoming a special education professional have access to financial assistance (tuition and/or stipends) that will pay for coursework taken toward a special education or related services degree program at Colleges and Universities across the United States. The National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education can provide you with lists of the Colleges and Universities which offer these various programs.

Financial assistance through grants from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), pays for course work that leads to a degree and/or certification in a particular special education or related services program area. There is also a commitment to teach or practice in the occupation for which you become licensed. This commitment is for a period of time equal to two years of service for every year of full-time study in which you received the financial assistance.



The United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), funds numerous undergraduate and graduate programs to prepare students to become special education professionals in a variety of careers. Some of these special education and related services careers include:

- ☀ Special Education classroom teachers working with students who are:
  - ☀ Blind and visually impaired
  - ☀ Deaf and hard of hearing
  - ☀ Emotionally/behaviorally disturbed
  - ☀ Learning disabled
  - ☀ Mentally retarded
- ☀ Adapted physical education teacher
- ☀ Educational audiologist
- ☀ Educational diagnostician
- ☀ Interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing
- ☀ Occupational therapist and assistant
- ☀ Paraprofessional
- ☀ Physical therapist and assistant
- ☀ Recreational therapist
- ☀ Rehabilitation counselor
- ☀ School counselor
- ☀ School nurse
- ☀ School psychologist
- ☀ School social worker
- ☀ Speech-language pathologist and assistant



## How to access OSEP Funds

- ☀ Contact the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education if you would like a list of Colleges and Universities in your State that offer programs funded by OSEP, or a list of those that prepare students in specific disability areas nation-wide.
- ☀ Make direct contact with the College or University you are interested in and inquire as to opportunities to receive financial assistance in the program that is funded at that institution.
- ☀ Qualify for admission to the program under regular admission standards. Contacting the program administrator listed is necessary for you to receive information that is specific to that OSEP program.