

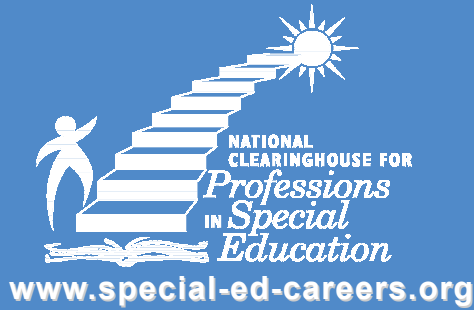
Special Educators teach children and youth whose learning is affected by:

- ☉ Autism
- ☉ Emotional disturbance
- ☉ Learning disabilities
- ☉ Mental retardation
- ☉ Multiple disabilities
- ☉ Orthopedic impairments
- ☉ Other health impairments
- ☉ Sensory impairments
- ☉ Speech and language impairments
- ☉ Traumatic brain injury

Although day to day challenges of the special educator may vary tremendously, the goal of achieving individual student success remains constant.



Special educators make the classroom experience productive and the general education curriculum accessible to special education students.



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

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



Special educators

Delivering on the Promise

Now, more than ever, children with disabilities need teachers who are committed to them and their families to help them realize their potential and become contributing members of their communities.

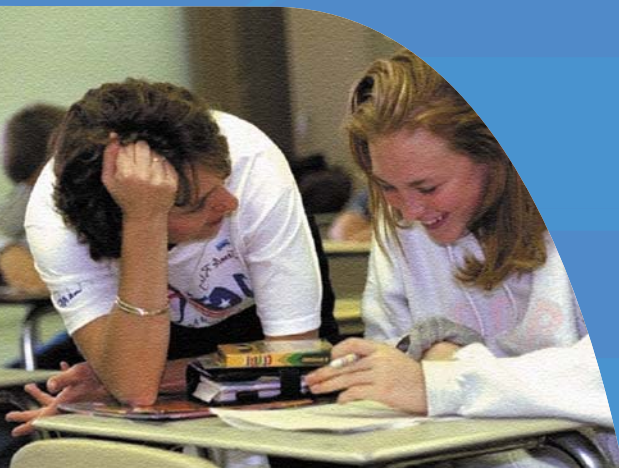


A Career in Special Education Offers Opportunities:

- ☀ To make a difference in the life of a child
- ☀ To work in different roles and in various settings
- ☀ To provide leadership
- ☀ To interact daily with other committed individuals
- ☀ To achieve marketability of one's skills
- ☀ To creatively use one's own talents in developing individualized approaches to instruction
- ☀ To continue personal and professional growth

Special Educators provide instruction and educational support through:

- ☀ Consultative services
- ☀ Individual tutoring or small groups
- ☀ Team teaching with general educators
- ☀ Self-contained classrooms



Special Educators are:

- ☀ Intelligent
- ☀ Assertive
- ☀ Enthusiastic
- ☀ Innovative
- ☀ Organized
- ☀ Confident
- ☀ Flexible

Special educators are lifelong learners who employ a reflective philosophy to continually improve their knowledge and skills for the benefit of their students.

Special educators are skilled in:

- ☀ Teaching students with disabilities
- ☀ Implementing the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
- ☀ Designing individual learning plans
- ☀ Using technology to enhance learning
- ☀ Advocating for students' rights
- ☀ Transitioning students from school to work
- ☀ Team building with a focus on the child



Special educators who work in early intervention collaborate with physicians and related services professionals to assist young children with disabilities and their families as they begin their educational journey.

Special educators at the elementary level provide early learning skills, behavioral strategies, reading instruction, and content knowledge.

Special educators at the secondary level provide subject specific information, practical life skills, career counseling, and transition from school to the workforce.

Across all ages and grades special and general educators work as teams with their students to achieve graduation, employment, and independent living.