

Steps to Becoming a Special Education Teacher in California

Step 1: Complete Your Educational Preparation

- Bachelor's degree
- Satisfy your US Constitution requirement with Political Science 1 or the state exam

Step 2: Pass Your State Exams

- Basic skills requirement -- prior to applying to your credential program
- California Subject Exam for Teachers (Multiple Subjects) -- prior to student teaching if you did not complete an approved subject matter preparation program or CSET Single Subject (secondary) if an approved subject matter preparation program was not completed
- Reading Instruction Competence Assessment -- while in your credential program

Step 3: Obtain a Character Clearance (prior to student teaching)

Step 4: Complete a Teaching Credential Program

- Teaching methods
- Reading instruction
- Testing/measurement
- Legislation
- Public health
- Special student populations (culture, language, special needs)
- Foundational computer technology
- Fieldwork
- Student teaching

Step 5: Apply for your preliminary Education Specialist Instruction Teaching Credential

Step 6: Complete a two year induction or BTSA program at the district level

- Support and mentoring
- Skill based assessments
- Health education, special populations, computers, English learners

Step 7: Apply for your professional clear Education Specialist Instruction Teaching credential