

APPROVAL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER (TEMPORARY, CONTINUING TEMPORARY, FULL)

TEMPORARY APPROVAL POLICY & CRITERIA:

NOTE: The employing superintendent must certify that the district conducted a search for a fully qualified teacher and that no certified teacher holding the appropriate endorsement was available to fill the position.

1. The candidate must possess a valid Michigan teaching certificate.
2. Temporary approval is granted to the requesting school district or intermediate school district (ISD) for a time period of not more than one school year. It is granted only when the candidate is employed in the category for which the request is intended.
3. The candidate must get accepted into the appropriate Teacher Preparation Institution that matches the category of assignment. For resource program teacher candidates, this includes any area of special education.
4. A request for approval must be received by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) during the school year (July 1 to June 30) in which the effective date applies.
5. A fee of \$50 must be paid by the employing district for all temporary approvals in teaching positions (see Public Act 339 of the Public Acts of 1988). Temporary approval will be issued once the fee has been paid. The fee must be paid no later than June 30 of that school year.
6. Temporary approval is granted from the beginning of the school year in which the request was initiated or the candidate's date of employment as a special education teacher, whichever is later. Approval is granted any time throughout the school year for which the approval is effective, but no later than June 30.
7. Temporary approval is not granted to teachers in private schools and other agencies that are not included in the definition of special education programs and services in the school code of 1976, section 380.6(8).
8. Temporary approval is not transferable from one school district to the next.



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CONTINUING TEMPORARY APPROVAL POLICY & CRITERIA:

1. The candidate must hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate.
2. Continuing temporary approval is granted to the requesting school district or intermediate school district (ISD) for a time period of not more than one school year. The candidate must remain in the same assignment for which the original approval was granted.
3. The employer must request continuing temporary approval for each consecutive year the candidate is teaching in a category and does not yet have the required endorsement or full approval.
4. The candidate's teacher preparation institution must verify that the candidate completed six semester or equivalent hours of credit toward the appropriate endorsement or full approval between August 31 of the current school year and September 1 of the next school year.
5. A request for approval must be received by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE, OSE) during the school year (July 1 to June 30) in which the effective date applies.
6. A fee of \$50 must be paid by the employing district for all continuing temporary approvals in teaching positions (see Public Act 339 of the Public Acts of 1988). The continuing temporary approval will be issued once the fee has been paid.
7. Continuing temporary approval is granted from the beginning of the school year in which the request was initiated. Approval is granted any time throughout the school year for which the approval is effective, but no later than June 30.
8. To receive an additional continuing temporary approval the following school year, the candidate must be enrolled to complete an additional six semester or equivalent hours of credit toward full endorsement or approval between August 31 of the current school year and September 1 of the next school year.
9. Continuing temporary approval is not transferable from one school district to the next.

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No Child Left Behind – Highly Qualified

An option in the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act* allows a teacher to be considered “Highly Qualified” if participating in an alternative route to certification as defined in 34 C.F.R. §200.56 (a)(2)(ii). This applies to persons under Special Education Personnel Approval as defined in R 340.1783 of the *Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE)* who are lacking a special education endorsement for the given assignment but have met all other requirements for being “Highly Qualified.”

Please note, however, that candidates may only be considered “Highly Qualified” under a temporary or continuing temporary approval for a maximum of three years. The three-year timeline for meeting these requirements begins on the date of hire as a special education teacher under temporary approval.

