Kansas state department of Education

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HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHER OVERVIEW 2008-2009

Special Education and English to Speakers of Other Languages Teachers
Elementary, Middle School, and Secondary

General Information

No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Title II, Part A ensures that all K-12 students have teachers with subject matter knowledge and teaching skills necessary to help all students achieve high academic standards regardless of their individual learning styles or needs.

All public elementary or secondary teachers employed to teach core academic subjects should have been designated "highly qualified" by the end of the 2006-2007 academic year.

All general education core content teachers must be "highly qualified."

Special education (SPED) and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) are "added endorsements" in Kansas, which means teachers are trained in a general education content area for their initial license.

Core Academic Subjects:

Elementary, English Language Arts, Reading, Mathematics, Science, Foreign Language, Fine Arts (music, art and speech/theatre), Economics, Geography, Government, History, Special Education and English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Highly Qualified Requirements for *Special Education Teachers*:

1. Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree
2. Hold a valid license to teach in Kansas. The license must have the appropriate content (SPED) and grade level endorsement for the teaching assignment and the requirements may not be waived on an emergency, temporary or provisional basis
3. Have demonstrated subject-matter competency in each of the core academic subjects the teacher is assigned to teach.

Highly Qualified Requirements for *English to Speakers of Other Languages Teachers*:

1. Have a minimum of a bachelor's degree
2. Hold a valid license to teach in Kansas. The license must have the appropriate content (ESOL) and grade level endorsement for the teaching assignment and the requirements may not be waived on an emergency, temporary or provisional basis
3. Have demonstrated subject-matter competency in each of the core academic subjects the teacher is assigned to teach.

Subject – matter Competence:

If it is necessary for a highly qualified special education/ESOL teacher to be assigned to teach a core content special education class, the teacher must be highly qualified in the core content subject of the "second assignment" by completing one of the following:

- Add the appropriate content endorsement to their teaching license

OR

- Earn 11 checks on the Kansas NCLB HOUSSE Check List for SPED/ESOL

Kansas NCLB HOUSSE Check List for SPED/ESOL

The checklist was designed for elementary and secondary ESOL/SPED teachers by a group of Kansas special education and ESL educators in 2005. The checklist allows special education and ESL teachers of core content classes the opportunity to demonstrate depth of content without adding the general education endorsement or taking the content test.