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## Teacher Preparation: Special Education Requirements for General Education Teachers

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More than 6 million students with disabilities are served under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) of 2004. Two-thirds of these students are in at least one course taught by general education teachers. Due to the increased inclusion of students with disabilities in general education classrooms, it is essential for general education teachers to have the knowledge and skills needed to teach students with disabilities. This project will produce a report of the current certification requirements for general education teachers to teach students with disabilities in the Northeast and Islands Region.

— CANDICE BOCALA, DANIEL MELLO, CLAIRE MORGAN, SUSAN MUNDRY, AND KRISTIN REEDY  
LEARNING INNOVATIONS AT WESTED, PROJECT TEAM

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### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Document the existing certification requirements in special education coursework and/or fieldwork for general education teachers in the nine jurisdictions of the Northeast and Islands Region.
- Analyze and describe the commonalities and differences in the certification requirements across jurisdictions in the region.

### AUDIENCE & APPLICATION

- State education agency (SEA) staff responsible for reviewing and potentially updating their states' certification requirements general education teachers.
- Higher education institutions that prepare teachers in the region.

### METHODOLOGY

- Collect and analyze data from publicly available documents and a web-based database related to special education requirements for general education teachers.
- Conduct face-to-face interviews with primary credentialing officials in the nine SEAs in the region.

### FINAL PRODUCTS

- Issues & Answers Report to be published by the Institute of Education Sciences.

### What Are Fast-Response Projects?

Fast-Response Projects are short-term projects that respond to regional and national needs and priorities and provide research-based knowledge to inform policy and practice. They use methods such as research syntheses, mining of existing data sets, and descriptive studies.



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(Pending Publication)

### Contact Information

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