

HQT Licensure & Content Knowledge Requirements for Special Educator Assignments

Teachers providing K-12 instruction in core content areas, as defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLBA), must meet Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) licensure and content knowledge requirements pertaining to their assignment. NCLBA defines core content areas as: English language arts (including English as a Second Language), math, science, social studies, reading, foreign (modern) languages, art, music, and the generalist endorsement areas of elementary education and early childhood education (grades K-3 only).

This chart describes the HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements for special educators who are performing primary instruction or team teaching roles in one or more of the core content areas of English language arts/reading, math, science, and social studies for one or more students. (See the document *Definitions of Special Education Instructional Arrangements and their Implications for Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Requirements* for the definitions of "primary instruction" and "team teaching" at education.vermont.gov/new/html/licensing/hqt.html.) Classroom teachers, providers of supplemental reading and/or math services, and alternative program teachers should use the HQT licensure and content knowledge requirements chart appropriate to their assignment. These charts are available online at education.vermont.gov under Educator Licensing.

All special educators providing primary instruction in a core content area must meet the content knowledge requirements listed in the chart below. To be HQT for his/her assignment, a special educator must carry an endorsement appropriate to the assignment AND must meet the HQT content knowledge requirements for the **highest grade level** of the students who receive primary instruction from the educator. The appropriate endorsement for any special education assignment is a special education endorsement (i.e., Special Educator, Consulting Teacher, Intensive Special Education Teacher, Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Educational SLP, Director of Special Education, Career and Technical Education Special Needs Coordinator). In addition, **the instructional levels of the endorsement used must encompass the actual grade(s) taught** (e.g., grades K – 8, grades K – age 21, grade 7 – age 21) in order to be appropriate for the assignment.

When counting credits, both college coursework and professional development in the academic content area may be counted toward HQT requirements. For a college course to be counted, the course must be from an accredited college or university and the number of credits and a grade of "C-" or higher must be listed on the grade report or transcript. Quarter credits are converted to semester credits. 15 hours of documented professional development are considered to be the equivalent of one semester credit. An unlimited number of credits or equivalent credits in content area pedagogy may be counted toward the HQT credit requirements for special educator assignments. HQT determinations are valid for the life of the endorsement.

More information about HQT and Vermont's Praxis II testing requirements is available online at education.vermont.gov under Educator Licensing. For questions regarding HQT, contact the Office of Professional Standards at (802) 828-1455 or at DOE-HQT@state.vt.us.

HQT Content Knowledge Requirements for Special Education Primary Instruction Assignments by Grade Level

Special educators who provide primary instruction in one or more of the core content areas of English language arts/reading, math, science¹, and social studies² to one or more students in K-12 public schools must meet HQT content knowledge requirements.³ To be HQT for providing primary instruction in a core content area, a special educator must carry an endorsement appropriate to the assignment AND must meet the HQT content knowledge requirements for the **highest grade level** of the students in that core content area. More information on HQT requirements and Vermont-approved Praxis II examinations can be found online at education.vermont.gov. Below are the HQT requirements for primary instruction for each core content area by grade level.

| | Grade Level K-6 | Grade Level 7-9 | Grade Level 10-12 |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| English | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 total credits in English language arts/reading AND 6 total credits in math, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Education exam (test code 0014 or 5014), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 7-9 or 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 or more credits in English language arts/reading, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Middle School English exam (test code 0049), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 or more credits in English language arts/reading, OR • A passing score on a Praxis II English exam (test code 0041 OR 0042), OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Reading Specialist exam (test code 0300) |
| Math | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 total credits in English language arts/reading AND 6 total credits in math, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Education exam (test code 0014 or 5014), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 7-9 or 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 or more credits in math, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Middle School Mathematics exam (test code 0069), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 or more credits in math, OR • A passing score on a Praxis II Mathematics exam (test code 0061 OR 0063) |
| Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 total credits in English language arts/reading AND 6 total credits in math, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Education exam (test code 0014 or 5014), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 7-9 or 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 or more credits in science, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Middle School Science exam (test code 0439), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 or more credits in science, OR • A passing score on a Praxis II General Science exam (test code 0435 or 0433), OR • A passing score on a Praxis II science sub-discipline exam in biology, chemistry, physics, or earth science (test code 0233, 0235, 0242, 0245, 0262, 0265, or 0571)⁴ |
| Social Studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 total credits in English language arts/reading AND 6 total credits in math, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Elementary Education exam (test code 0014 or 5014), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 7-9 or 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 or more credits in social studies, OR • A passing score on the Praxis II Middle School Social Studies exam (test code 0089), OR • Meet HQT requirements for GL 10-12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 or more credits in social studies, OR • A passing score on a Praxis II Social Studies exam (test code 0081 or 0083) |

¹Science credits must be from among biology, chemistry, physics, earth/environmental/atmospheric science, and science pedagogy. ²Social Studies credits must be from among history, geography, economics, civics/government, and social studies pedagogy. ³In order to be counted towards HQT requirements, courses must be listed with credit and a grade of C- or higher on a transcript or grade report from an accredited college or university. Quarter credits are converted to semester credits. 15 hours of professional development are considered to be the equivalent of one semester credit. An unlimited number of credits or equivalent credits in content area pedagogy may be counted toward the HQT credit requirements for special educator assignments. HQT determinations are valid for the life of the endorsement.⁴The following Praxis II exams are no longer available, but, with a passing score, they will count towards the Praxis II science sub-discipline requirement for HQT purposes: Biology (test code 0231), Chemistry (test code 0241), and Physics (test code 0261).