

California Teaching Performance Expectations for Education Specialists in Mild/Moderate Settings

TPE 1: Engaging and Supporting All Students in Learning

1.1 Demonstrate the ability to collaboratively develop and implement Individualized Education Programs (IEP), including instructional goals that ensure access to the Common Core State Standards and California Preschool Learning Foundations, as appropriate, that lead to effective inclusion of students with disabilities in the general education core curriculum.

1.2 Demonstrate understanding of students with complex communication needs (e.g., students with limited verbal ability,) in order to foster access and build comprehension, and develop appropriate language development goals within the IEPs for those students.

1.3 Demonstrate knowledge of students' language development across disabilities and the lifespan, including typical and atypical language development, communication skills, social pragmatics, the hierarchy of brain based learning skills (e.g. executive functioning) and vocabulary/semantic development as they relate to the acquisition of academic knowledge and skills.

1.4 Monitor student progress toward learning goals as identified in the academic content standards and the IEP/Individual Transition plan (ITP).

1.5 Demonstrate the ability to develop IEPs/ITPs with students and their families, including goals for independent living, post-secondary education, and careers, with appropriate connections between the school curriculum and life beyond high school.

1.6 Facilitate and support students in assuming increasing responsibility for learning and self advocacy based on individual needs, with appropriate transitions between academic levels in programs and developing skills related to career, college, independent living and community participation.

1.7 Use strategies to support positive psychosocial development and self-determined behavior of students with disabilities.

TPE 2: Creating and Maintaining Effective Environments for Student Learning

2.1 Develop accommodations and modifications specific to students with disabilities to allow access to learning environments, including incorporating instructional and assistive technology, and alternative and augmentative procedures to optimize the learning opportunities and outcomes for all students, and to move them toward effective inclusion in general education settings.

2.2 Demonstrate the ability to support the movement, mobility, sensory and specialized healthcare needs required for students to participate fully in classrooms, schools and the community. Organize a safe environment for all students that include barrier free space for independent mobility, adequate storage and operation of medical equipment (as appropriate) and other mobility and sensory accommodations.

2.3 Demonstrate the ability to address functional limitations of movement and/or sensation for students with orthopedic impairments who may have a co-existing health impairment and/or intellectual disability but have difficulty accessing their education due to physical limitations.

2.4 Collaborate with families and appropriate related services personnel to support access to, and optimal learning experiences for, students with mild to moderate support needs in a wide variety of general education and specialized academic instructional settings, included but not limited to the home, natural environments, educational settings in hospitals and treatment centers, and classroom or itinerant instructional delivery and/or consultation in public/nonpublic school programs.

2.5 Demonstrate knowledge of the communicative intent of students' behavior as well as the ability to help students develop positive communication skills and systems to replace negative behavior.

2.6 Demonstrate the ability to identify if a student's behavior is a manifestation of his or her disability and to develop positive behavior intervention plans inclusive of the types of interventions and multi-tiered systems of supports that may be needed to address these behavior issues.

2.7 Understand and access in a collaborative manner with other agency professionals the variety of interventions, related services and additional supports, including site-based and community resources and agencies, to provide integrated support for students with behavior, social, emotional, trauma, and/or mental health needs.

2.8 Apply and collaboratively implement supports needed to establish and maintain student success in the least restrictive environment, according to students' unique needs.

2.9 Demonstrate the skills required to ensure that interventions and/or instructional environments are appropriate to the student's chronological age, developmental levels, and disability-specific needs, including community-based instructional environments.

2.10 Implement systems to assess, plan, and provide academic and social skills instruction to support positive behavior in all students, including students who present complex social communication, behavioral and emotional needs.

2.11 Demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities to understand and address the needs of the peers and family members of students who have sustained a traumatic brain injury as they transition to school and present with a change in function.

TPE 3: Understanding and Organizing Subject Matter for Student Learning
3.1 Adapt, modify, accommodate and differentiate the instruction of students with identified disabilities in order to develop appropriate goals and accommodations and facilitate access to the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE).
3.2 Demonstrate knowledge of disabilities and their effects on learning, skills development, social-emotional development, mental health, and behavior, and of how to access and use related services and additional supports to organize and support effective instruction.
3.3 Demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of atypical development associated with various disabilities and risk conditions (e.g. orthopedic impairment, autism spectrum disorders, cerebral palsy), as well as resilience and protective factors (e.g. attachment, temperament), and their implications for learning.
TPE 4: Planning Instruction and Designing Learning Experiences for All Students
4.1 Demonstrate the ability to use assistive technology, augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) including low- and high-tech equipment and materials to facilitate communication, curriculum access, and skills development of students with disabilities
4.2 Demonstrate the ability to use evidenced-based high leverage practices with a range of student needs, and evaluate a variety of pedagogical approaches to instruction, including instructional sequences, unit and lesson plans, in order to provide students with disabilities equitable access to the content and experiences aligned with the state-adopted core curriculum.
4.3 Demonstrate the ability to identify and use behaviorally based teaching strategies with the understanding that behaviors are communicative and serve a function.
4.4 Demonstrate the ability to create short and long-term goals that are responsive to the unique needs of the student and meet the grade level requirements of the core curriculum, and which are systematically adjusted as needed to promote maximum learning and academic achievement within inclusive environments.
4.5 Demonstrate knowledge of core challenges associated with the neurology of open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments and adjust teaching strategies based upon the unique profile of students who present with physical/medical access issues or who retain a general fund of knowledge, but demonstrate difficulty acquiring and retaining new information due to poor memory processing, as well as neuro behavioral issues.

4.6 Coordinate, collaborate, co-teach and communicate effectively with other service providers, including paraprofessionals, general education teachers, parents, students, and community agencies for instructional planning and planning for successful student transitions.
4.7 Use person-centered/family centered planning processes, and strengths-based, functional/ecological assessments across classroom and non-classroom contexts that lead to students' meaningful participation in core, standards-based curriculum, life skills curriculum, and/or wellness curriculum, and that support progress toward IEP goals and objectives.
TPE 5: Assessing Student Learning
5.1 Apply knowledge of the purposes, characteristics, and appropriate uses of different types of assessments used to determine special education eligibility, progress monitoring, and decision making regarding eligibility, placement in LRE, and services. Candidates also apply knowledge of when and how to use assessment sources that integrate alternative statewide assessments, formative assessments, and formal/informal assessment results as appropriate, based on students' needs.
5.2 Each candidate utilizes assessment data to: 1) identify effective intervention and support techniques, 2) develop needed augmentative and alternative systems, 3) implement instruction of communication and social skills, 4) create and facilitate opportunities for interaction; 5) develop communication methods to demonstrate student academic knowledge; and 6) address the unique learning, sensory and access needs of students with physical/orthopedic disabilities, other health impairments, and multiple disabilities.
5.3 Demonstrate knowledge of special education law, including the administration and documentation of assessments and how to hold IEP meetings according to the guidelines established by law.
5.4 Demonstrate knowledge of requirements for appropriate assessment and identification of students whose cultural, ethnic, gender, or linguistic differences may be misunderstood or misidentified as manifestations of a disability.
5.5 Demonstrate knowledge of second language development and the distinction between language disorders, disabilities, and language differences.
5.6 Know how to appropriately administer assessments according to the established protocols for each assessment. Candidates also understand how to implement appropriate accommodations on assessments for students with disabilities that do not fundamentally alter the nature and/or content of what is being tested, and how to use AAC appropriately for facilitating the participation in the assessment of students with complex communications needs.

TPE 6: Developing as a Professional Educator

6.1 Demonstrate the ability to coordinate and collaborate effectively with paraprofessionals and other adults in the classroom.

6.2 Identify and understand conflict resolution techniques that use communication, collaboration, and mediation approaches to address conflicts and disagreements that may arise during the facilitation of an IEP meeting or collaboration with other professionals.

6.3 Demonstrate knowledge of historical interactions and contemporary legal, medical, pedagogical, and philosophical models of social responsibility, treatment and education in the lives of individuals with disabilities.

6.4 Demonstrate knowledge of federal, state, and local policies related to specialized health care in educational settings.

6.5 Demonstrate knowledge of the unique experiences of families of students who are chronically ill, are hospitalized and/or in transition from hospitalization, and/or who have degenerative conditions.

6.6 Possess the knowledge that the diminishment or loss of previous abilities (learning, social, physical) may have significant, long-term effects on the self-concept and emotional wellbeing of the student who acquires a traumatic brain injury as well as on their family members, requiring the provision of appropriate supports and services to address these issues.