

IS A CAREER AS A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER FOR STUDENTS WITH LOW INCIDENCE AND COGNITIVE DISABILITIES RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER FOR STUDENTS WITH LOW INCIDENCE AND COGNITIVE DISABILITIES?

A special education teacher for students with low incidence and cognitive disabilities instructs students whose disabilities represent a low percentage of the total number of students with disabilities. Students with low incidence and cognitive disabilities require unique instruction to help them achieve their highest potential.

Teachers for students with low incidence and cognitive disabilities individualize curriculum materials and teaching techniques to match the unique needs of each student. They may teach students within a special education classroom, collaborate and teach with others in the general education classroom, or a combination of both. They may also provide instruction in the home or specialized school settings.

The Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) defines a low incidence disability as:

"... a visual or hearing impairment, or simultaneous visual and hearing impairments; a significant cognitive impairment; or any impairment for which a small number of personnel with highly specialized skills and knowledge are needed in order for children with that impairment to receive early intervention services or a free appropriate public education."



YOU MIGHT ENJOY THIS WORK IF YOU ARE:

- Compassionate, patient, and calm
- A multi-tasker (someone who is good at doing more than one thing at a time)
- Comfortable being both a team player and a leader
- Good at communicating with others and building relationships
- Well-organized and self-driven
- Skilled at learning new things and teaching it to others
- Adept at changing plans

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER FOR STUDENTS WITH LOW INCIDENCE DISABILITIES

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Some of my students are the happiest, most energetic, kind people you will ever meet. I hope people are willing to take that step and work with alternate populations that they wouldn't typically have thought of.

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Rachel Karba
Educational Support Teacher
Bethlehem Area School District

Scan the QR code to
watch the interview.



HOW TO BECOME A SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER IN PENNSYLVANIA:

There are multiple pathways to becoming a special education teacher in Pennsylvania. All pathways require you to earn a bachelor's degree, successfully student teach, achieve a passing score on the required content area tests, and obtain a PK-12 special education teaching certificate.

There are over 75 approved special education teacher programs in Pennsylvania from which to choose. They include programs specific for hearing impairment, visual impairment, and special education PK-12. To learn more about these career pathways, use the QR Code to visit the Pennsylvania Department of Education website and discover which path is best for you.

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/BecomeAnEducator/Pages/ACPSpecialEducation.aspx>

