

Proposed Special Education Certificate

Reasons why CEA opposes proposed certificate	Some questions to consider in writing testimony
No clear provision for grandfathering all special educators	<p>What impact will requiring a master's degree for initial special ed certification have on your school/district ability to hire special educators? How will this impact affect teachers and students?</p> <p>What impact will requiring a master's degree (at significant cost) for initial special ed certification have on prospective teachers' decisions to earn that certificate?</p> <p>How will the expanded roles of the special educator under the proposed certificate impact their ability to provide services to students?</p> <p>Why should the responsibilities CEA outlined for a special ed <u>teacher</u> and a special ed <u>specialist</u>, be separated into 2 levels of preparation and certification? How would these be helpful to your school/district?</p> <p>How will the elimination of student teaching (when special educators advocate for 2 student teaching experiences, as described in the PowerPoint presentation on the CEA web site) impact the ability of new special ed teachers to service students?</p> <p>What should the SDE and State Board of Education know about the reality of being a special ed teacher that supports CEA's ideas for 2 levels of special ed certification?</p> <p>What impact would the proposed certificate, if adopted, have on teachers and students in the long run?</p>
Eliminates special ed certification at bachelor's level – would be the only teaching certificate to require graduate preparation for initial certificate	
Cost for teachers to meet requirements for <i>initial</i> certificate increases by thousands of dollars	
Will discourage teachers from seeking special ed certification, & take longer to prepare those who do seek it - will create greater shortage of special ed teachers	
Preparation program too broad for 30 credits, does not include 9 credits in reading, as special educators recommend – results in underprepared teachers	
No student teaching requirement included (only clinical practice) – but enables person to teach students with wide variety of needs, and to train teachers and paras	
Broad range of responsibilities allowed under one certificate too many for any teacher to handle, & still service students well	
Would require 75 hours of CEU credit, in specific areas, to earn professional certificate – would be the only teaching certificate to do so; runs contrary to statutory requirements for professional certificates	

CEA PROPOSES:

- 2 levels of certification – special ed *teacher* & special ed *specialist*
- Involve special educators who currently teach at different levels, & in different environments, in designing responsibilities covered by each level of certificate

How to Write and Deliver Testimony for the Certification Hearings Proposed Special Education Certificate

- Write about **1 or 2** reasons why the proposed certificate should be changed, tying them together if possible (better to go into more depth about fewer reasons than write shallow comments about all reasons)
- **Personalize** your comments – talk about how this certificate and its requirements would affect how you do your job and the **effect** that would have on students – use simple English, not a lot of education jargon
- Conclude by clearly saying **what you think would be a better** alternative – See CEA position.
- Written testimony should be no longer than **1 to 2 pages**
- Oral testimony is generally limited to **3 minutes** – Summarize main points from your written testimony
- Use the format provided by CEA (headings, how to begin wording)
- **Review the questions** pertaining to the reasons CEA opposes proposed certificate, and how you might ‘answer’ these questions (and others) as part of your testimony

Written testimony should be sent to CEA via email at SpecialEducation@cea.org at least **8 days** before the hearing date. **Keep a copy of your written testimony. CEA will compile all testimony, make the required copies, and submit it to the SDE for you.**