

Special Education Teachers

SOC: 25-2050 • Career Profile Report

■ Key Facts

\$64,270 Median Salary	7,700 Employment	-1.0% Growth Rate
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■ Requirements & Salary Range

Education: Bachelor's degree

■ Automation Risk Assessment

Low Risk - 10.0% probability of being automated in the next 10-20 years.
This job is relatively safe from automation due to its creative, social, or complex problem-solving requirements.

■ Work-Life Balance

8.2/10 - Excellent work-life balance

■ Personality Fit (RIASEC)

Higher scores indicate better personality fit for this career type.

Realistic	3.8/10	Investigative	6.6/10
Artistic	7.6/10	Social	9.4/10
Enterprising	5.2/10	Conventional	6.0/10

■ Top Skills Required

Communication skills, Critical-thinking skills, Interpersonal skills, Patience, Resourcefulness

✓ Strengths

- High Demand
- Flexible Work
- Continuous Learning

■ Challenges

- Burnout Risk
- Rapid Technological Change

■ What They Do

Special Education Teachers instruct students **with physical, emotional, behavioral, or learning disabilities**. They develop individualized education programs (IEPs), adapt teaching methods, and provide support to help students achieve academic and social goals. Their work is critical in promoting inclusive education and helping students reach their potential.

This career is well suited for individuals who enjoy teaching, mentoring, and supporting students with diverse learning needs.

What Do Special Education Teachers Do?

These professionals assess student needs, design individualized plans, and deliver instruction tailored to each student's abilities.

Common responsibilities include:

- Developing and implementing individualized education programs (IEPs)
- Adapting lesson plans to accommodate disabilities and learning styles
- Monitoring student progress and adjusting instructional strategies
- Collaborating with parents, teachers, and specialists to support student development
- Providing one-on-one or small group instruction
- Maintaining detailed records of student performance and progress
- Using assistive technology and specialized teaching methods

Key Areas of Special Education

Teachers may focus on specific disabilities, age groups, or instructional methods:

- Learning Disabilities: Supporting students with reading, writing, or math challenges
- Behavioral and Emotional Support: Helping students manage behavior and develop social skills
- Physical or Sensory Disabilities: Adapting instruction for mobility, vision, or hearing impairments
- Early Childhood Intervention: Working with young children to address developmental delays
- Inclusive Education: Integrating students with disabilities into general education classrooms

Skills and Abilities Needed

Special education teachers combine instructional, adaptive, and interpersonal skills.

Core Professional Skills

Personal Qualities That Matter

Education and Career Pathway

This role typically requires formal education, certification, and practical experience:

- Bachelor's Degree (minimum): Special education, education, or related field
- Teacher Preparation Program: Completing coursework and student teaching in special education
- State Licensure or Certification: Required to teach in public schools
- Continuing Education: Staying current with instructional strategies, laws, and disability research
- Specialized Training (optional): Assistive technology, behavioral interventions, or specific disability support

Where Do Special Education Teachers Work?

They are employed in educational institutions that support students with disabilities:

- Public and Private Schools
- Special Education Centers
- Early Childhood Programs
- Residential and Therapeutic Education Facilities

- Vocational or Transition Programs

Work environments include classrooms, therapy rooms, and specialized educational settings.

Is This Career Difficult?

This career requires patience, creativity, and adaptability. Teachers must tailor instruction to diverse needs and support students academically, socially, and emotionally.

Who Should Consider This Career?

This career may be a strong fit if you:

- Enjoy teaching and mentoring students with diverse abilities
- Are patient, empathetic, and adaptable
- Can collaborate effectively with parents and specialists
- Have strong communication and problem-solving skills
- Want a career supporting inclusive education and student development

How to Prepare Early

- Take courses in education, psychology, and child development
- Volunteer or intern in special education classrooms or support programs
- Develop communication, observation, and instructional skills
- Explore undergraduate and graduate programs in special education
- Gain experience working with children or adults with disabilities

Special education teachers provide tailored instruction and support, empowering students with disabilities to achieve academic, social, and personal success.