Certification Staffing Assignment

SPECIAL EDUCATION – COGNITIVE, BEHAVIOR AND PHYSICAL/HEALTH DISABILITIES (CB/PHD) (Nursery-12)

General Information

This CSPG is intended to assist the chief school officer in ensuring that all staff involved in instruction are appropriately certified and qualified for the courses they are teaching. It is the responsibility of the chief school officer to exercise discretion in the selection and assignment of staff according to the particular curriculum needs of the students that staff serves.

Certification Assignment

A person holding a certificate endorsed in this special education area is qualified to teach students with disabilities how to understand, overcome, compensate for and/or adjust to their disability through the use of adaptive instructional strategies, instructional accommodations, individualized learning activities and specially designed services. In addition, these persons are qualified to instruct in specific subject areas if the curriculum they teach is adjusted to the needs and abilities of identified students with disabilities and is different in learning objectives, content and instructional times, instructional methods and materials, expected levels of achievement or procedures for evaluation from those planned courses used to instruct regular education students of comparable chronological age.

Staffing Special Education Classes

When a student's IEP prescribes regular education planned instruction designed to satisfy the secondary education curriculum requirements as prescribed in Chapter 4, a person teaching that course must be appropriately certified in that subject area. Special education certification is not appropriate in this instance. Conversely, when a student's IEP prescribes special education modified instruction, designed to satisfy the special education needs of the student, then the person teaching the course must be appropriately certified in the special education area.

Local Education Agency Responsibilities

The determination as to whether a regular education or special education planned course is appropriate rests with the school entity's officials. However, the IEP should clearly state the specific curriculum needs of the students. Without the IEP documentation and planned course differentiation, the state cannot support the local entity's choice of staffing in the event there are questions regarding the propriety of staffing. Therefore, it is critical that local school officials in staffing their regular education or special education programs, ensure that clearly defined and categorized planned courses are in place and that student's IEP's clearly prescribe curriculum needs.

Grade Level - Scope of Certificate

A person holding a valid PA certificate for Special Education-CB/PHD is qualified to provide all special education requirements in grades Nursery through 12.

The special education teacher can also assist students with disabilities by using special strategies including adaptation of curricula and materials, developing accommodations and specific interventions to meet student needs and the use of effective instruction, methods, learning activities and specially designed services.

An educator holding the Special Education – CB-PHD certificate is qualified to render diagnostic and prescriptive services in instructional programs, which are designed within an IEP to serve students having one or more disabilities. In addition, Special Education-CBP/HD teachers are qualified to offer pre-vocational diagnostic and assessment activities, as well as career awareness activities such as job shadowing, to identify the interests and abilities of students; provide basic occupational or career information; provide diverse occupational training and community transition or sheltered workshop experiences for students whose IEP requires such activities, and to co-teach in a regular education classroom and assist in curriculum modification.

In addition, CB/PHD certified teachers may conduct student activities including paid/unpaid work experiences in a community-based operation; involve the business enterprise of the employer in paid or unpaid settings; involve the coordination of job training agreements; or the appropriate placement of students in a work or community transition setting related to their career objectives.

Special Considerations

Other certification titles that are also applicable in this are: Mentally and Physically Handicapped, and Mentally Retarded. An educator certified in this field may provide

CSPG No. 61 Page 3 of 3

school staff development services and other professional development activities consistent with federal and state laws and regulations, landmark litigation and local district policies and procedures.

An educator certified in this field may serve in the role of mentor or advisor, and may assist students in understanding the "reading" content area materials related to subject areas.

References:

Program Specific Guidelines for Certification.

22 PA Code: Chapter 4: §4.21

§4.22 §4.23

Chapter 14

PA Public School Code: §1202

§1212 §1604

THIS REVISION SUPERSEDES ALL EARLIER CSPG'S CARRYING THIS NUMBER AND/OR ADDRESSING THIS SUBJECT. PREVIOUS PRINTING DATES ON THIS SUBJECT: 1973, 3/75, 3/78, 2/82, 1/87, 7/1/04