

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES
26.00 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT AND STANDARDS
July 2008

26.01 PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT

26.01.1 General

- 26.01.1.1 Each public agency must implement personnel development that is designed to ensure an adequate supply of qualified special education, regular education, and related services personnel;
- 26.01.1.2 Each public agency must ensure that all personnel necessary to carry out Part B of the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) within the jurisdiction of the agency are appropriately and adequately prepared, subject to the requirements of 34 CFR 300.156 (related to personnel qualifications) and section 2122 of the ESEA.

26.02 PERSONNEL STANDARDS

26.02.1 General

- 26.02.1.1 In the provision of special education and related services, each public agency shall employ and/or enter into a professional services contract with individuals who hold a valid license from the State Board of Education or, as appropriate, another licensure Board with authority under State statute to issue such a license.

26.02.2 Paraprofessionals, Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) assistants/aides and educational interpreters for the deaf

- 26.02.2.1 Public agencies may only use paraprofessionals in the provision of special education and related services who are appropriately trained and supervised in accordance with guidelines established by the ADE.
- 26.02.2.2 Public agencies may only use speech-language pathology aides and speech-language pathology assistants who have been approved by the ADE, Special Education Unit in accordance with a written agreement between the ADE, Special Education Unit and the Arkansas Board of Examiners in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

26.02.2.3 Public agencies employing Educational Interpreters for the Deaf must comply with guidelines published by the ADE.

26.02.3 Additional Licensure Plan (ALP)

26.02.3.1 When a public agency cannot employ a teacher who holds a valid teaching license in special education from the Arkansas State Board of Education, the public agency may use a teacher who is not licensed in special education to provide special education and related services when -

- A. The public agency can demonstrate that it has made a good faith effort to recruit and hire appropriately and adequately trained teachers to provide special education and related services;
- B. The individual holds a valid teaching license from the Arkansas State Board of Education in an area other than special education; and
- C. The individual has a current ALP from the ADE, Office of Professional Licensure, and has a copy on file with the ADE, Special Education Unit; and
- D. The individual is making progress toward completion of the ALP in accordance with ADE policies.

26.02.3.2 Program Approval by the Special Education Unit for the use of individuals on a ALP to provide special education and related services is not to be confused with accreditation of a school or school district.

26.02.3.3 The purpose of program approval by the Special Education Unit is to verify that the special education and related services provided by a public agency meet state and federal requirements for the provision of special education and related services and, thus, the public agency may count students receiving those services to generate federal funds under the IDEA.

26.02.4 Substitute Teachers

26.02.4.1 When a public agency uses a substitute teacher, the public agency must follow the regulations and procedures established by the ADE.