

Special Education Teacher

A certified teacher who specializes in students with disabilities and learning differences. Same salary grid, higher demand.

TYPICAL PAY

\$90,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$55k to \$118k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

6 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

**Public and private schools,
resource rooms, provincial demon...**

How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12
 Any academic path. Psychology, biology and English all help later.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years
 Any subject for elementary. For high school you need enough credits in two teachable subjects. Psychology and child development courses are a good fit.
- 3 Bachelor of Education (B.Ed)** 1 to 2 years
 Ontario requires four semesters. Most other provinces are 1 to 2 years. Includes practicum placements, and you can ask for a special education placement.
- 4 Certification** A few weeks
 Register with your province, for example the Ontario College of Teachers or the BC Teacher Regulation Branch.
- 5 Special education qualification** 2 to 4 years, part time
 In Ontario this is a three-part Additional Qualification (AQ). Part 1 needs only your teaching certificate. Part 2 needs a year of teaching. The Specialist needs two years, including one year teaching special education.

Pros and cons

- + Hired faster than any other teaching specialty
- + Small classes and real relationships with students
- + Full teacher pay, pension and holidays
- The heaviest paperwork load in the school
- Physical and emotional risk when a student is in crisis
- Burnout is common and staff turnover is high

Good to know

Ontario recognizes 12 exceptionalities

Ontario groups special education needs into five categories covering 12 named exceptionalities, from behaviour and communication to physical and multiple disabilities. A committee decides which one ap...

Most students are in the regular classroom

Canadian provinces default to inclusion, so the majority of students with special education needs are taught in a regular class with support rather than a separate one. That is why regular teachers nee...

Optional boosts

Special Education Specialist. Teaching students who are deaf or hard of hearing. Teaching students who are blind or have low vision. Applied behaviour analysis training.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Special Education Teacher, Primary School, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario College of Teachers: Requirements to teach

Ontario College of Teachers: Prerequisites for Additional Qualifications

Ontario: Special education in schools

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/special-education-teacher>



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