

A Guide to Special Education Teacher Licensure in MN: Which Teaching License is Right for You???

***Please note: Teacher licensure areas and student disability categories are two separate things. While some fully align, others do not. This document focuses on the different licensure areas you can pursue, however, specific disability categories that can be served with each license are also highlighted.

Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS)

With an [ABS license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible children and youth with disabilities from kindergarten through age 21 who have a range of mild to moderate needs in the areas of academics, behavior, social, emotional, communication, and functional performance. These students come from the primary disability areas of autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental cognitive disability (DCD), emotional or behavioral disorders (EBD), other health disorders (OHD), and specific learning disabilities (SLD). With your ABS license, you are not prepared to serve needs beyond those that are considered moderate in these disability areas.

With your ABS license, you may work in collaboration with, but not replace the expertise and services of those who serve children and youth with a disability in the areas of: blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, deaf-blind, speech and language impairment, physical impairments, traumatic brain injury, and severely multiply impaired. For these children and youth, a teacher with the academic and behavioral strategist (ABS) licensure would need to refer to an educational professional with expertise, certification, or specific special education licensure. This teacher is required to collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans.

Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

With an [ASD license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible children and youth from birth through age 21 who have autism spectrum disorders. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans.

Blind or Visually Impaired (BVI)

With a [BVI license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible infants, children, and youth from birth through age 21 who are blind, visually impaired, or deaf-blind, and those with additional disabilities that include vision loss. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans.

Deaf or Hard of Hearing (D/HH)

With a [D/HH license](#), you are authorized to provide specially designed instruction, from birth through age 21, to infants, children, and youth with a broad range of hearing loss and to collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and

specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized educational program plans for infants, children, and youth who are auditory, visual, or multimodal learners.

Developmental Adapted Physical Education (DAPE)

With a [DAPE license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction in physical education to eligible students from prekindergarten through age 21 who have needs in the areas of physical fitness; motor fitness; fundamental motor skills and patterns; or skills in aquatics, dance, individual and group games, and sports. Teachers must collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized physical education programming as specified in a child's individualized education program (IEP) plan.

Developmental Disabilities (DD)

With a [DD license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible students from kindergarten through age 21 who have a broad range of moderate to severe cognitive disabilities and deficits in adaptive behavior, mainly those who qualify for services under the educational category of Developmental Cognitive Disability. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

With an [ECSE license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible children, birth through age six, who exhibit a broad range of developmental delays or disabilities (e.g., motor delays, speech or language impairments, autism spectrum disorders, emotional or behavioral disorders, low birth weight, chromosomal abnormalities, etc.) as well as those who are at risk for future delays. Teachers collaborate and consult with families and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans for children and the home, school, and community setting.

Emotional or Behavioral Disorders (EBD)

With an [EBD license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible students from kindergarten through age 21 who have emotional or behavioral disorders or related behavioral difficulties. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized education program plans.

Learning Disabilities (LD)

With an [LD license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible students from kindergarten through age 21 who have specific learning disabilities or related learning difficulties. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized educational program plans.

Oral/Aural Deaf Education

With an [oral/aural deaf education license](#), you are authorized to provide specially designed instruction, from birth through grade 12, to individuals with a broad range of hearing loss and to collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized educational program plans for students only in oral/aural deaf education programs or itinerant services and only for students who do not require American Sign Language or other signed systems for their language of instruction.

Physical and Health Disabilities (P/HD)

With a [P/HD license](#), you are authorized to provide evaluation and specially designed instruction to eligible children and youth from birth through age 21 who have medically diagnosed physical or chronic or acute health disabilities. Teachers collaborate and consult with families, other classroom and special education teachers, and specialized service providers in designing and implementing individualized educational program plans.