

Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186)

Candidate Certification Testing Requirements

Updated October 2024

Important Dates to Remember

Spring 2025	• Prep Manual available
Summer 2025	• Rep Exam/Interactive Practice Test available
Aug. 31, 2025	• Last day to take 161 and 163 Exams
Sept. 2, 2025	• Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186) Exam Launch
Sept. 1, 2026	• Last day to apply and recommend using 161 and 163

Frequently Asked Questions

Answers

Exam Launch and Candidate Registration

When does this exam launch?	The new Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186) exam is scheduled to launch September 2, 2025 . The exam framework can be found here .
Who should take the new Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186) exam?	Candidates seeking an intern, probationary, and/or standard certification in Special Education EC-12 should take the new 186 exam. Any candidate enrolling starting September 2025 will take the Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186) exam.

Exam Transition and Program Requirements

When is the deadline for candidates to take either the current Special Education EC-12 (161) or the Special Education Supplemental (163) exam?	The last day for candidates to take the older 161 Special Education EC-12 or 163 Special Education Supplemental exam will be August 31, 2025 .
When is the last day to recommend candidates using the current Special Education EC-12 (161) or Special Education Supplemental (163) exam?	The last day to apply and recommend candidates using the current Special Education EC-12 (161) exam is September 1, 2026 .
Is this a new certification area?	Yes. The Special Education Specialist EC-12 (186) certificate represents a new certification area.
Will programs have to reapply to offer the Special Education Specialist EC-12 certification?	Yes. Programs who currently offer the current Special Education EC-12 and/or Special Education Supplemental certificates will need to meet the following requirements to offer the new Special Education Specialist EC-12 certificate and approve candidates for the aligned exam: • Attend (or view the recording) the Special Education Specialist Framework Overview and Application Process Webinar and submit the webinar exit ticket, and • Complete and submit a modified application. There is no application fee for this application. Please contact your assigned Education Specialist with any questions. • A recording of the Framework Overview and Application Process Webinar will be available no earlier than Spring 2025.

Exam Preparation and Resources

When will the Preparation Manual for this exam be available?	The preparation manual for the new Special Education Specialist (186) exam will be available Spring 2025 .
When will the Representative and Practice exams be available?	Both the representative and practice exams will be available Summer 2025 .
What can I expect during the introductory period?	There will not be an introductory period for this exam. All candidates must meet the minimum passing standard recommended by the committee. Standard-setting activities will conclude Fall 2024. Following these activities, the passing standard can be found in the Commissioner's Rules Concerning Passing Standards for Educator Certification Examinations .