SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDY PLAN

for Name:

Date:

About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan details the materials and resources available to candidates in pursuit of a Special Education endorsement. We encourage you to use your American Board resource modules to target your learning needs and goals. Hyperlinked resources are integrated content for the Special Education endorsement certification. Please make sure that you visit the relevant pages to access all of the resources.

Your commitment to great teaching begins here. The effort you put in will not only help you pass the test but will also prepare you to become an informed and successful teacher.

Special Education Exam Snapshot

American Board is committed to providing you with the resources that will prepare you for the classroom. We will provide you with study resources to prepare you for the exam. It is your job to commit to preparing and to maintain focus while studying. Think of the snapshot below as an overview for what you need to know. For more detail in each topic, review the exam standards. The American Board exams are based on this blueprint, so consider the Special Education Study Plan as a syllabus detailing your study needs.



The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart.

- Helen Keller

Time Allowed	240 minutes for multiple-choice	
Format	Multiple-choice	
Number of Questions	125 multiple-choice questions	
On-Screen Exhibits	None	
Passing Score	Proficient: 278 Distinguished: 312	(The number of questions answered correctly is converted to a scaled score ranging from 0 to 500. Writing component scores range from 0 to 6.)
	Content Domains	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	Professional Skills and Background Knowledge	22%
Exam Summary	Understanding the Special Needs Student	23%
	General Special Education Practices	37%
	Language Development Strategies	18%

About This Exam The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled special education teachers should possess a comprehensive body of knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement. The special education exam is designed for candidates who intend to teach in any K-12 special education program. The topics assessed include the basic principles and foundations of special education, language development, assessment, and instructional delivery.

"The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things." -Jean Piaget

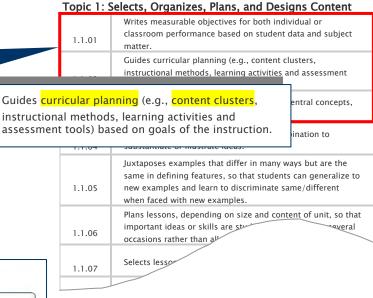
American Board's Standards Stepwise Method

The right way to get started: Use the standards as your syllabus

Your self-assessment is a summary of the standards; by doing it, you have identified which ones need the most attention. The standards are your study lifeline; you can find them on your American Board home page. Throughout the course of your study you will learn all of them. How to begin? Here is American Board's Standards Stepwise method:

O Approach in bite-sized chunks: don't be overwhelmed or paralyzed by how many standards there are, simply pick a topic of a domain and get started.

2 Define the terms: take the first three items in the topic and make sure you know all the terms. Look up any vocabulary that you do not recognize.



Domain 1: Instructional Design

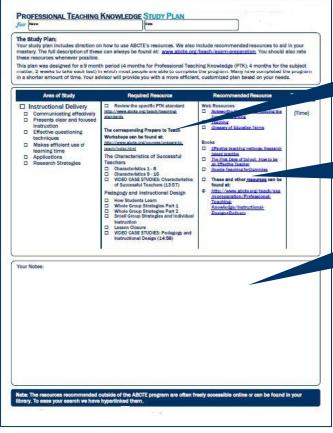
3 Use the required resources in your Study Plan or a broad survey text to refresh your memory on the topic.

4 Use the appropriate recommended resources to provide depth of understanding. These hyperlinked sources reinforce core content and define terms.

5 Your notes: use this area as a space to highlight content, terms, ideas, and questions.

6 Check for understanding and reflect: think about how you would use this in a classroom or how you would teach the subject. Use your quizzes to check for understanding and move on.

Wash, rinse, and repeat: once you finish a chunk of three, go back and attack the next three.



Have a Plan

Identify available study time and outline learning goals for these slots. Schedule your study time weekly to include flexibility in case your priorities change or new ones pop up. Use your monthly schedule to mark dates for beginning and/or completing smaller tasks with the end goal in mind.

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The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use American Board's resources. We also include recommended resources to aid in your mastery. Use the hyperlinks and recommended resources below to guide your studies and notetaking.

American Board Standards	Resources and Recommended Texts	Core Content Terms	Timeline
American Board Domain 1: Professional Skills and Background Knowledge Topic 1: Philosophical, Historical, and Legal Foundations	 United States Department of Education:Office for Civil Rights Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services Recommended Text Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning Approach (3rd ed.) 	Individual Education Plan (IEP) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Section 504 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)	{Time}
Topic 2: Professional and Ethical Practice	 Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Recommended Text Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning Approach (3rd ed.) High-leverage Practices in Special Education 		{Time}
Topic 3: Professional Communication and Collaboration	Recommended Text Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning-Approach (3rd ed.) High-leverage Practices in Special Education		{Time}

Note: The resources recommended outside of the American Board program are often freely accessible online or can be found in your library. To ease your search we have hyperlinked them.

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Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choices before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

A <mark>m</mark> ∍rican Board Standards	Resources and Recommended Texts	Core Content Terms	Timeline
American Board Domain2: Understanding the Special Needs Student Topic 1: Characteristics of Learners with Disabilities	Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) LD Online: The educator's guide to learning disabilities and ADHD GADOE: Special Education Services and Supports Recommended Text How the Special Needs Brain Learns	Eligibility Categories Autism Deafblind Deaf/Hard of Hearing (D/HH) Emotional & Behavioral Disorder Intellectual Disabilities Orthopedic Impairment	{Time}
Topic 1: Characteristics of Learners with Disabilities Topic 2: Cultural Competence	 Making Connections: Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain How the Stress of Racism Affects Learning Teach Kids, Not Stereotypes 	Significant Developmental Delay Specific Learning Disability Speech Language Impairment Traumatic Brain Injury Visual Impairment & Blindness	{Time}
Topic 3: Family Participation	 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) Rights and Responsibilities of Parents of Children with Disabilities 	Parental Rights- Due Process Consent for Placement Consent to Evaluate Manifestation Determination Prior Written Notice	{Time}
Topic 4: Learning Environment and Social Interactions	 Redesigning District-wide Special Education Services Academic Success for All Students: A Multi- Tiered Approach Recommended Text High-Leverage Practices in Special Education 	Functional Behavioral Assessment (FBA) Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP) Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Response to Intervention (RTI) Least Restrictive Environement	{Time}

Your I	Notes:
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"I can give children the inspiration and encouragement to confront their own challenges, surpass negativity and persevere....Without this program, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to pursue teaching."

-Traci Brown, American Board Teacher, FL

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Testing on the Computer:

This may be your first time taking a test on a computer. On average, people read 20% slower on a screen vs. paper. Because of this and other issues, practice as much as you can on the computer to become comfortable working in that environment.

Familiarity with the test and its standards will go a long way towards your American Board success.

American Board Standards	Resources and Recommended Texts	Core Content Terms	Timeline
American Board Domain 3: General Special Education Practice Topic 1: Assessment	 Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities Department of Justice: ADA Testing Accommodations What is Data Driven Instruction? 		{Time}
Fopic 2: Effective Instructional Delivery	The Importance of High Quality General Education for Students in Special Education Recommended Resources Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning Approach (3rd ed.) The Inclusive Education Checklist: A Self-Assessment of Best Practices How the Special Needs Brain Works		{Time}
Topic 3: Instructional Planning	Recommended Resources Teaching in Today's Inclusive Classroom: A Universal Design for Learning Approach (3rd ed.) The Inclusive Education Checklist: A Self-Assessment of Best Practices How the Special Needs Brain Works		{Time}
Topic 4: Student Self- Determination and Transition	 ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education: Self-determination and Education of Students with Disabilities 		{Time}
Your Notes:			

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We love to highlight American Board teachers by sharing their stories with local news outlets. Not only does this provide publicity for a potential job search, it can also help highlight your school as one that is committed to providing students with the best possible teacher. Email pr@americanboard.org if you are interested in this opportunity to share why you became a teacher and how American Board helped you earn certification.				
American Board Standards	Resources and Recommended Texts	Core Content Terms	Timeline	
American Board Domain 4: Language Development Topic 1: Reading Acquisition Topic 2: Spelling Topic 3: Language Acquisition and Development Topic 4: Writing Strategies	 Read Right from the Start Free Reading Reading Rockets Thirty Million Word Initiative Read Write Think 		{Time}	
Your Notes:				
	an be directed to the Help Desk within yr contact Candidate Services at: cs@ar			