

# 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 <b>September 2, 2025</b> . The exam framework can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
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 <b>August 31, 2025</b> .
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 <b>September 1, 2026</b> .
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attend (or view the recording) the Special Education Specialist Framework Overview and Application Process Webinar and submit the webinar exit ticket, and</li><li>• Complete and submit a modified application. <b>There is no application fee for this application.</b> Please contact your assigned Education Specialist with any questions.</li><li>• A recording of the Framework Overview and Application Process Webinar will be available no earlier than <b>Spring 2025</b>.</li></ul>

#### 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 <b>Spring 2025</b> .
When will the Representative and Practice exams be available?	Both the representative and practice exams will be available <b>Summer 2025</b> .
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 <a href="#">Commissioner's Rules Concerning Passing Standards for Educator Certification Examinations</a> .

