



Summary of Legal and Contractual Obligations on Staffing Certifications and Requirements

This informational overview is a general reference guide intended only to clarify for schools relevant legal and contractual obligations, including OPSB Policy. It is NOT a substitute for understanding federal and state guidelines and/or the appropriate state and local policies nor is it a comprehensive description of all applicable legal and contractual obligations. Additionally, it is not meant to explain or delineate OPSB strategic priorities.

OPSB expects all charter schools and charter school operators to comply with the staff certification and qualification requirements in applicable federal laws (e.g., IDEA), BESE Bulletins 741 and 1929, La. R.S. 17:3991, and Charter Operating Agreements. For more information, visit teachlouisiana.net

Summary Overview of Charter School Staffing Certification and Qualification Expectations	
Charter School Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Per state law, teachers must have at least a baccalaureate degree. (La. R.S. 17:3991) • Per state law, teachers must be subject to all background checks requirements for public school personnel as detailed in state law. (La. R.S. 17:3991)
Charter School Special Education Teachers and/or Coordinators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State charter law merely requires instructional staff to have a baccalaureate degree. (La. R.S. 17:3991) • According to the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): All teachers must be “appropriately and adequately prepared and trained . . . [and] have the content knowledge and skills to service children with disabilities”. (20 U.S.C. § 1412) • In alignment with this mandate, a Louisiana certification to instruct special education is a reasonable and appropriate demonstration of competence for special education teachers.
Charter School and/or Organization Business Managers	<p>In accordance with BESE Bulletin 1929, a School Business Manager, and/or Business Administrator, and/or Chief Financial Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Undergraduate degree with at least 24 hours of business related courses ○ Certification as a Louisiana CPA ○ Master’s degree in public or business administration, AND • Must have at least three years of work experience in a relevant field, AND • Must acquire a Certified Louisiana School Business Administration certification within 7 years from date of hire, though a CPA license may be substituted for such a certification.

Reference(s): OPSB Common Charter Operating Agreement; BESE Bulletin 1929; La. R.S. 17:3991; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; Every Student Succeeds Act

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