



Special Education Course Code Revisions

Overview

- All course codes are revised and published annually via the Course Code/ Endorsement Code document:
 - <http://tn.gov/education/topic/correlations-of-course-and-endorsement-codes>
- Updates are emailed quarterly via the Commissioner's Update for Directors.

Task Force

- To revise special education course codes, a 16-person task force was assembled:
 - Divided into groups by grade span (i.e., pre-K through elementary, middle, and high)
 - Included representation from Houston, Maury, Lauderdale, Knox, and Davidson counties
 - Completed the work over the course of two in-person meetings with follow-up teleconference meetings
 - Vetted internally by department staff and externally through the Tennessee Association of Administrators in Special Education (TAASE)

Task Force Goals

- **Goal 1:** Streamline special education course codes across grade spans
- **Goal 2:** Use consistent language across grade spans
- **Goal 3:** Provide guidance regarding how each course code should be used
- **Goal 4:** Ensure endorsements are appropriately aligned with each special education course code

Key Changes: Modified Course Codes

- All modified course codes have been **removed**.
 - Modifications and accommodations can be made in the general education setting without the need for a separate course code.
 - This will prevent teachers from having multiple rosters/gradebooks for the same general education class.
 - If a student needs a modified curriculum, then a comprehensive or alternate course code should be selected.

Key Changes: Comprehensive Course Codes

- Comprehensive course codes were created for each core content area starting in grade 2–8.
- Comprehensive course codes for high school were created for core content areas but in grade spans (i.e., Comprehensive Program Grade 9–12 Math).
 - These course codes should be used for students who require a replacement of core content instruction.
 - **These courses should be aligned to grade-level/content area standards.**
 - These students will take the general education, end-of-year assessment.

Alternate Course Codes

- Our five-digit alternative assessment and EOC course codes remain intact for students who fall within the one percent population.
- For high school, these include:
 - English II (53002), Algebra I (53102), Biology I (53210)

Additional Guidance

- There are special education intervention course codes for the following grade spans:
 - Special Education Intervention (K–8) and Special Education Intervention (6–12).
 - These are to be used for all interventions or services provided outside of core instruction (i.e., functional life skills, prevocational, social-personal, etc.).
- Person-specific course codes (i.e., Audiologist) were all moved to the “Specialized Assignments” section of the Course Code/Endorsement Code document.

Additional Guidance (cont.)

- The Division of Special Populations will create and publish a list of frequently asked questions based on these changes.
 - This information will be disseminated via the Commissioner’s Update for Directors and the Special Education Director’s Update.
 - It will also be posted here:
<http://tn.gov/education/topic/correlations-of-course-and-endorsment-codes>.
- Please email all questions to sped.coursecodequestions@tn.gov.



Department of
Education

Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.

Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork