

## PhD Education, Special Education Leadership

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AK, AL, AR, AS, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, MP, MS, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NM, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, PR, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VI, VT, WA, WI, WV, WY.

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Retired 2021 - Updated 2025

State/Territory Name	Credential Title	Professional Licensure Disclosure
California	N/A	California does not offer a Special Education director/administrator credential. Graduates are not eligible for the general Administrative Services credential.
Illinois	Director of Special Education endorsement	<p>The Illinois State Board of Education requires completion of a master's degree, or higher, in a state-approved special education director preparation program from a regionally accredited university.</p> <p>Illinois requires coursework in specific content areas. The Illinois State Board of Education has reviewed and approved the following Capella courses to meet these required content areas. Capella learners will need to add the following courses to their academic plan.</p> <p>Illinois content area: Cross-categorical methods of the exceptional child Capella course: ED5707 Instruction for students with disabilities</p> <p>Illinois content area: Methods of reading and reading in the content area Capella course (choose one) ED551 Developing fluent readers ED5552 Teaching comprehension strategies ED5554 Sociocultural context of reading instruction</p> <p>Illinois content area: ESL/bilingual methods Capella course: ED5728 Methods, curriculum, and materials for English language learners</p> <p>Applicants must have two year's of full-time experience providing special education services.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any school building or district leader license or certificate.</p>

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Iowa	Director of Special Education	<p>Based on our research, Iowa requires applicants to hold an administrative license, three years of administrative experience, and completion of at least a specialist degree in administration or special education.</p> <p>Capella graduates will first need to earn a license in Minnesota and then apply to Iowa through reciprocity.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any school building or district leader license or certificate.</p>
Louisiana	Special Education Supervisor	Louisiana does not appear to offer a Special Education Director license.
Maryland	N/A	Based on our research, Capella's PhD in Education with a specialization in Special Education Leadership will not meet Maryland's current educational requirements for Supervisor of Special Education.
Michigan	Director of Special Education	<p>The Michigan Department of Education requires completion of a master's degree, or higher, in a state-approved special education leadership preparation program from a regionally accredited university that includes certain course requirements.</p> <p>Applicants must have special education teaching endorsement, full approval in at least one area of special education, school psychologist certification, or credential for other professional personnel.</p> <p>Applicants must also have three years of successful professional practice or administrative experience in special education, or a combination of practice and experience.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any school building or district leader license or certificate.</p>

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Minnesota	Director of Special Education	<p>The Minnesota Department of Education requires completion of an EdS or doctoral program. The program must be approved by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators.</p> <p>Of the 320 hours required at internship, the internship must include at least 40 hours at a special education administrative unit other than the primary experience of the applicant.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any school building or district leader license or certificate.</p>
New York	N/A	New York does not appear to offer a separate certificate for Special Education Leadership.
North Carolina	N/A	<p>The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction requires completion of a state-approved master's degree, or higher, in special education or administration, from a regionally accredited institution and 9 semester hours of specific special education administration coursework. Capella's PhD in Education, Special Education Administration degree includes the required coursework.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any principal or superintendent license.</p>
Ohio	N/A	Ohio does not appear to offer a separate license for Special Education Leadership.
Pennsylvania	Supervisor, Special Education	<p>The Pennsylvania Department of Education requires completion of an out-of-state approved program that is equivalent to Pennsylvania's standards for Supervisor, Special Education certification, from a regionally accredited university which is a member of the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement.</p> <p>This program is not designed for and will not lead to any school building or district leader license or certificate. I will send you an email with additional licensing information.</p>
South Carolina	N/A	South Carolina does not appear to offer a special education director license.
Texas	N/A	Texas does not offer a separate license for special education leadership.

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Washington	N/A	The State of Washington Professional Educator Standards Board does not issue a special education director or administrator license.