Understanding Statements of Continued Eligibility (SOCE):

➢ What is it:
  ▪ The Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) deems qualified special education teachers eligible to teach in a subject area outside of their own while teaching a special class (self-contained) in grades 7-12.

➢ Who needs to apply and hold a Statement of Continued Eligibility or Limited Extension?
  This new regulation ONLY affects Special Education Teachers:
  ▪ Permanent Special Education (Grades K-12)
  ▪ Students with Disabilities (Grades 5-9) – Generalist
  ▪ Students with Disabilities (Grades 5-9) – ALL Subjects including General Science and Foreign Languages
  ▪ Students with Disabilities (Grades 7-12) – Generalist
  ▪ Students with Disabilities (Grades 7-12) - ALL Subjects including General Science and Foreign Languages

➢ When is the application deadline?
  ▪ Individuals must apply for the SOCE through their TEACH account and pay the application fee by June 30, 2020. Special education teachers can complete the SOCE requirements within three years of the application date or two evaluations of the application, whichever comes first, with the exception that the teaching experience requirement must be completed by June 30, 2020.

➢ For how long is a SOCE valid?
  ▪ A SOCE is continuously valid and is only valid in a special class.

➢ In what subjects can I get a SOCE?
  A Statement of Continued Eligibility (SOCE) is available in the following subject areas:
  ▪ Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English Language Arts, Foreign Languages, General Science, Mathematics, Physics, and Social Studies.

➢ How much is the application fee?
  ▪ Special Education teachers should submit a separate application in TEACH for each subject area in which they are seeking a SOCE.
  ▪ For the SOCE, special education teachers would pay the $100 application fee for the first subject area.
  ▪ If they are interested in receiving a SOCE in other subject areas, they should submit additional SOCE applications, but not pay the application fees.
  ▪ The additional SOCE applications fees can then be waived.
  ▪ To have the application fee waived, teachers must send an email to the Office of Teaching Initiatives at tcert@nysed.gov with the subject line “SOCE Application Fee
Waiver” and list the subsequent subject area SOCE application(s) whose fee would be waived in the text of email.

➢ What scenario best describes my situation and what do I apply for?

SOCE:

- If you are a special education teacher who has 3 years of paid, full-time teaching experience while highly qualified through the HOUSSE Rubric in the subject area in which the statement of continued eligibility (SOCE) is being sought; and can prove it (your school should have a record of it).

- If you are a special education teacher who never completed the HOUSSE Rubric, but would have been deemed highly qualified because you had the qualifications. In this case the DOE may complete the HOUSSE rubric now based on the teacher's qualifications immediately prior to the academic years listed on the Verification of Paid Teaching form, demonstrating that the special education teacher was Highly Qualified throughout the time that he/she was teaching the subject area in a special class.

Limited Extension:

- If you are a special education teacher who does not have at least three years of experience as a highly qualified teacher under the HOUSSE Rubric, or you prefer to apply for the limited extension. To apply for the Limited Extension, you must satisfy ONE of the requirements below:
  - Paid, Full-Time Teaching Experience While Highly Qualified Through HOUSSE Rubric - Subject Area - Special Class - 2 years
  - Content Specialty Test (CST) - Subject Area
  - Passed an Industry Accepted exam
  - Content Core – Subject Area - 9 credits (2 classes)
  - 45 Hours of CTLE AND Two Years of Full-Time Teaching Experience in Grades 7-12 - Subject Area - Special Class
  - 45 hours of (CTLE) and School District Recommendation - Subject Area - Special Class

➢ What are the application steps?

- Log on to your TEACH account
- Scroll down to apply for certificates
- Select Your Certificate Title by choosing from the dropdowns
  - Area of interest - Statement of Continued Eligibility and Limited Extensions
  - Select a Subject Area - choose the subject you want a SOCE or limited extension
  - Select a Grade Level - Adolescent - Grades 7-12
  - Select title - choose a Subject - Special Class
Select Type of Certificate- SOCE or Limited Extension (choose according to your scenario)

Pay for the application (If you are interested in receiving a SOCE in other subject areas, you would submit additional SOCE applications, but not pay the application fees. These additional SOCE applications can then have the fee waived. To have the application fee waived, teachers would send an email to the Office of Teaching Initiatives at tcert@nysed.gov with the subject line “SOCE Application Fee Waiver” and list the subsequent subject area SOCE application(s) whose fee would be waived in the text of the email.

➢ Experience Documentation

DOE must submit the following documents to verify the required teaching experience. Multiple Verification of Paid Teaching Experience forms and HOUSSE rubrics would be submitted if the teaching experience occurred in multiple districts.

▪ A completed Verification of Paid Teaching Experience form
  o The form includes a question for employers where they can verify that the applicant was employed in a public school or other school for which certification is required to teach a special class.

▪ A completed HOUSSE rubric in the subject area in which the SOCE is sought.
  o The HOUSSE rubric must have a date indicating that the rubric covered the years of experience listed on the Verification of Paid Teaching Experience form (e.g., the date on the rubric is prior to the academic years listed on the form, the academic year listed on the rubric is the same as the oldest academic year listed on the form).
  o If the district does not have the required HOUSSE rubric, then it may complete the HOUSSE rubric now based on the teacher’s qualifications immediately prior to the academic years listed on the Verification of Paid Teaching Experience form, demonstrating that the special education teacher was Highly Qualified throughout the time that he/she was teaching the subject area in a special class. An appropriate district official (e.g., Superintendent, Director of Human Resources) must send:
    1. the completed HOUSSE rubric AND
    2. a letter explaining that the special education teacher taught the subject area in a special class and the HOUSSE rubric represents the fact that the teacher would have been considered Highly Qualified in the subject area in each of the years listed on the Verification of Teaching Experience form.