

## Update: To My Friends Around the World Career Paths in Special Education and Music (If I Had the Power)

specialneedsinmusic.com is currently being used in over 21 countries. It is indeed amazing to communicate with people from all over the world who have found the site.

I have had discussions and e-mail correspondence with many teachers and education students who would very much like to establish music programs for special needs learners. It is my hope and dream, that a *dual license* for *special education/music and art* be established for serious musicians and teachers who want to educate special needs learners within school systems. Music and art programs would be an integral part of all *special education schools*. With the program integrated into a school curriculum, a *special education/subject specialist teacher* would have *seniority rights* and *program protections*.

With a dual license available to new teachers, a lot of wasted time and energy could be saved. Had I been given the opportunity to get a dual license to secure my position as a new teacher, I would have gladly done it. I have been very fortunate in that I am well established in my field and have taught music for twenty three years in a program that only services students with severe disabilities.

As it is, I have become state certified as both a teacher of instrumental music and as a chorus teacher, although I still teach under my original special education license.

I receive e-mails from people starting out in the field who have the desire to teach music in special education settings, but, need some assurance they can achieve tenure in their field and not be asked to teach subjects for which they have no expertise.

A positive aspect of the *No Child Left Behind Act* is the recognition that teachers should be teaching the subjects they know best. This is very important within special education as well.

<http://specialneedsinmusic.com/>