



**TO:** Higher Education Committee  
P-12 Education Committee

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**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to Section 80-4.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Grade-Level Extensions for Certain Candidates Who Hold a Students with Disabilities Generalist Teaching Certificate

**DATE:** December 7, 2017

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

## SUMMARY

### Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt a proposed Amendment to §80-4.3 of the Commissioner's Regulations relating to grade-level extensions for certain candidates who hold a Students with Disabilities Generalist certificate?

### Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

### Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee and P-12 Education Committee for discussion at its December 2017 Board of Regents meeting (Attachment A is a copy of the proposed amendment).

### Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on December 27, 2017. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

## **Background Information**

There has been a continuous shortage of teachers who hold Students with Disabilities Generalist certificate titles in New York State. The Department has been considering ways to increase the number of qualified certificate holders in this area, and has worked with the field to address these shortages. One way to expand the pool of qualified teachers of students with disabilities is to extend the grade levels in which they can teach.

## **Proposed Amendment**

At this time, the Department is proposing four different extension certificates for current holders of Students with Disabilities Generalist certificates, as outlined below:

<b>Current Certification</b>	<b>Teaching Experience Requirement</b>	<b>Teachers Choose One of the Following Requirements</b>		<b>Proposed Extension</b>
		<b>CTLE</b>	<b>College Course</b>	
<b>Birth – Grade 2</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 <sup>st</sup> and/or 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on elementary level education.	Minimum of 3 semester hours of pedagogical coursework focused on elementary level education.	Grades 3-4
<b>Grades 1-6</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 1 <sup>st</sup> and/or 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on early childhood education.	Minimum of 3 semester hours of pedagogical coursework focused on early childhood education.	PK-K
	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 5 <sup>th</sup> and/or 6 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on middle level education.	Minimum of 3 semester hours of pedagogical coursework focused on middle level education.	Grades 7-8
<b>Grades 7-12</b>	Minimum of 3 years teaching experience at 7 <sup>th</sup> and/or 8 <sup>th</sup> grade levels.	Minimum of 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on middle level education.	Minimum of 3 semester hours of pedagogical coursework focused on middle level education.	Grades 5-6

For each of the proposed extension titles, a Students with Disabilities Generalist certificate holder must have a minimum of three years of teaching experience in either of the two grade levels closest to the grade levels of the extension, plus either 45 hours of acceptable Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) or 3 semester hours of pedagogical coursework focused on the grade levels of the extension sought. Experience for this purpose shall be defined as at least 75 percent or more of the candidate's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in either of the two grade levels closest to the grade level extension during each of the three school years. For example, a teacher who currently holds a Students with Disabilities Generalist (grades 1-6) certificate who has

had a minimum of 3 years teaching experience at the 5<sup>th</sup> and/or 6<sup>th</sup> grade levels must complete either 45 hours of acceptable CTLE focused on middle level education or a 3 semester hour course focusing on middle level pedagogy to obtain a Students with Disabilities Generalist Extension in grades 7-8.

By extending the grade bands in which qualified teachers of students with disabilities may teach, the Department believes this will help to address the shortage of teachers of students with disabilities.

**Related Regents Items**

Not Applicable.

**Recommendation**

Not Applicable.

**Timetable for Implementation**

Following the 45-day public comment period required under the State Administrative Procedure Act, it is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented to the Board of Regents for adoption at its March 2018 meeting. If adopted at the March 2018 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on March 28, 2018.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 210, 215, 305, 3001, 3004 and 3009.

New subdivision (o), (p), (q) and (r) shall be added to Section 80-4.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education to read as follows:

(o) Requirements for a grade-level extension to teach students with disabilities (grades 3-4). The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following paragraphs:

(1) the candidate shall hold a valid initial or professional certificate in students with disabilities (birth - grade 2);

(2) the candidate shall submit satisfactory evidence of at least three school years of teaching experience; provided that at least 75 percent of the candidate's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in grades 1 and/or 2 in the public schools of this State while holding a valid certificate, during each of the three school years; and

(3) the candidate must either:

(i) provide satisfactory evidence of completion of at least 45 hours of acceptable continuing teacher and leader education focused on students with disabilities at the elementary level; or

(ii) the candidate shall complete a minimum of three semester hours of satisfactory pedagogical study or its equivalent, that is focused on students with disabilities at the elementary level.

(p) Requirements for a grade-level extension to teach students with disabilities in pre-kindergarten and kindergarten. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following paragraphs:

(1) the candidate shall hold a valid initial or professional certificate in students with disabilities (grades 1-6);

(2) the candidate shall submit satisfactory evidence of at least three years of teaching experience; provided that at least 75 percent of the candidate's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in grades 1 and/or 2 in the public schools of this State while holding a valid certificate, during each of the three school years ; and

(3) the candidate must either:

(i) provide satisfactory evidence of completion of at least 45 hours of acceptable continuing teacher and leader education focused on students with disabilities at the early childhood level; or

(ii) the candidate shall complete a minimum of three semester hours of satisfactory pedagogical study or its equivalent, that is focused on students with disabilities at the early childhood level.

(g) Requirements for the extension to teach students with disabilities (grades 7-8). The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following paragraphs:

(1) the candidate shall hold a valid initial or professional certificate in students with disabilities (grades 1-6);

(2) the candidate shall show satisfactory evidence of a minimum of three years of teaching experience; provided that at least 75 percent of the candidate's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in grades 5 and/or 6 in the public schools of this State while holding a valid certificate, during each of the three school years ; and

(3) either:

(i) provide satisfactory evidence of completion of at least 45 hours of acceptable continuing teacher and leader education focused on students with disabilities at the middle level; or

(ii) the candidate shall complete a minimum of three semester hours of satisfactory pedagogical study or its equivalent, that is focused on students with disabilities at the middle level.

(r) Requirements for a grade-level extension to teach students with disabilities (grades 5-6). The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following paragraphs:

(1) the candidate shall hold a valid initial or professional certificate in students with disabilities (7-12 generalist);

(2) the candidate shall show satisfactory evidence of a minimum of three years of teaching experience; provided that at least 75 percent of the candidate's time is spent teaching students with disabilities in grades 7 and/or 8 in the public schools of this State while holding a valid certificate, during each of the three school years ; and

(3) either:

(i) provide satisfactory evidence of completion of at least 45 hours of acceptable continuing teacher and leader education focused on students with disabilities at the middle level; or

(ii) the candidate shall complete a minimum of three semester hours of satisfactory pedagogical study or its equivalent, as determined by the Commissioner, that is focused on students with disabilities at the middle level.