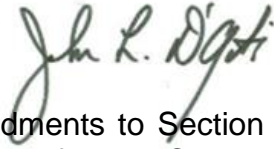


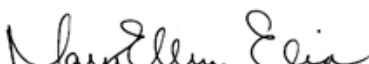


TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Section 80-5.8 and 80-5.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Reciprocity Requirements and Endorsement of Certificates for Service as a Teacher, School District Leader, and School District Business Leader and Addition of a New Section to Address Reciprocity Requirements for School Building Leaders

DATE: February 16, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents amend Section 80-5.8 and 80-5.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to reciprocity requirements and endorsement of certificates for service as a teacher, school district leader, and school district business leader and add a new section to address reciprocity requirements for school building leaders.

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

This item will come before for the Higher Education Committee at its February 2016 meeting for discussion.

Background Information

Current Reciprocity Requirements:

Section 80-5.8 of the Commissioner's Regulations currently requires the following of candidates for endorsement of a certificate or an equivalent authorization to practice from another state or territory of the U.S. or the District of Columbia for service as a teacher in the classroom teaching service:

- (1) hold a valid teaching certificate or equivalent authorization to practice from another state or territory of the U.S. or District of Columbia;
- (2) meet the general certificate requirements in Subpart 80-1, including requirements relating to citizenship, study in child abuse identification and reporting, school violence prevention and intervention, training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, a criminal history check;
- (3) have at least three years of satisfactory experience in a public school in another state or territory of the U.S. or District of Columbia in a position that would have required an initial or professional certificate (which must have been completed within five years immediately preceding application for endorsement of the out-of-state certificate) or the equivalent of this experience as determined by the Commissioner;
- (4) hold a baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution or a higher education institution that the commissioner deems the substantial equivalent (with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5); and
- (5) meet the examination requirements for the title and type of certificate sought in New York. Currently, a teacher would need to pass the ALST, EAS and the CST to obtain a conditional initial certificate, which is valid for one year, during which time the teacher must pass the edTPA to obtain his/her initial or professional certification, depending on his/her educational level.

Similarly, Section 80-5.20 of the Commissioner's Regulations currently requires the following of candidates for endorsement of a certificate or an equivalent authorization to practice from another state or territory of the U.S. or the District of Columbia for service as a school district leader or school district business leader:

- (1) hold a valid certificate or equivalent authorization to practice from another state or territory of the U.S. or District of Columbia that is equivalent to the professional certificate as a school district or school district business leader;
- (2) meet the general certificate requirements in Subpart 80-1, including requirements relating to citizenship, study in child abuse identification and reporting, school violence prevention and intervention, training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, a criminal history check;

- (3) hold a master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited higher education institution or an equivalently approved higher education institution as determined by the Department; and
- (4) have had at least three years of satisfactory experience in a public school (grades N-12) in another state or territory of the U.S. or the District of Columbia in a position that would have required the professional certificate in the appropriate title (which must have been completed within ten years immediately preceding the application for endorsement of the out-of-state certificate). For school district leaders *only*, the candidate must achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the school district leader exam.

Last, a new section would be added to the Commissioner's Regulations to address endorsement of out-of-state certificates for service as a school building leader. Currently, there is only a pathway for out-of-state school building leaders who have completed a comparable school leader program and hold a valid certificate to obtain a conditional initial certificate. They must then fulfill the examination requirements to gain the Initial certificate (achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the SBL Parts 1 and 2) and pass the EAS.

Proposed Changes:

The proposed changes would allow those out-of-state candidates certified as a teacher, school building leader, or school district or school district business leader to qualify for certification in New York if they have three or more years of experience teaching in the subject area of their valid certificate or acting as a school building leader or school district or school district business leader. In addition, these candidates who wish to become certified in New York must also submit evidence of their baccalaureate degree (teachers) or master's degree (school district or business leaders) or higher from a regionally accredited higher education institution or an equivalently approved higher education institution as determined by the Department and a letter, or other form of documentation, as determined by the Commissioner, documenting the evaluations the applicant has received during the most recent three years of experience. Essentially, the proposal would streamline the process for those certified and experienced teachers and leaders from other states who can demonstrate a track-record of strong performance based on their evaluation by no longer requiring the candidate to complete a teacher education program which leads to an initial certificate and no longer requiring the candidate to meet citizenship requirements of Section 80-1.3 - specifically those that relate to certificate holders applying who are in Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status pursuant to Sections 59.4 and 80-1.3. In addition, those certified out-of-state teachers and leaders would no longer need to take and pass state certification assessments.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Regents direct the Department to develop regulations reflecting and incorporating the directives made during this discussion. The Department would then come back with an item in March that would be sent out for public comment.

Timetable for Implementation

If the Board of Regents directs the Department to develop amendments to the regulations consistent with this discussion, the Department will present this as an item at the March 2016 Board of Regents meeting. The item and proposed amendments to the regulations would then be sent out for public comment.