



To: Higher Education Committee

From: John L. D'Agati 

Subject: Overview of the Requirements for Regulations to Implement Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2015 Relating to the Registration Process for any Holder of a Certificate that is Valid for Life (Permanent, Professional and Teaching Assistant Level III) and the Establishment of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) Requirements for Professional and Teaching Assistant Level III Certificate Holders

Date: February 19, 2016

Authorization(s): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

The Department will provide an overview of the requirements for regulations to implement Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2015 relating to the registration process for Permanent, Professional and Teaching Assistant Level III certificate holders and to establish continuing teacher and leader education requirements for Professional and Teaching Assistant Level III certificate holders.

Background Information

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2015 amended Section 3006 of the Education Law which requires that, commencing with the 2016-2017 school year, any holder of a teaching certificate in the classroom teaching service, teaching assistant or educational leadership that is valid for life to register with the Department every five years. These certificate holders must be registered to practice in New York State. If a certificate holder does not wish to practice in New York, the certificate holder must notify the Department.

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2015 also added a new Section 3006-a to the Education Law to require that, commencing with the 2016-2017 school year, each Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) certificate holder who is practicing in a New York State public school or Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to complete 100 hours of CTLE during each five year registration period.

At the December 2015 Board of Regents meeting, the Department presented the Board with an overview of the new law. The Department is currently in the process of drafting amendments to the Commissioner's Regulations to implement the new law. By email dated February 10, 2016, the Department sought guidance from the field on key components of the draft regulations, including but not limited to NYSUT, the UFT, NYSSBA, NYSCOSS and district superintendents. Specifically, the Department is seeking input from the field on the following issues:

- the definition of "practicing" for purposes of registration and CTLE,
- the timing of registration during the 2016-17 school year and re-registration,
- the definition of "resuming practice" for teachers who become inactive,
- the sponsor approval process (including what types of sponsors should be approved), and
- whether the school districts and BOCES should continue to be required to submit professional development plans.

The Department plans to incorporate any suggestions from the field into where there is agreement and such changes are consistent with the new law. In areas where there is not alignment, the Department will provide options to the Board at its March 2016 meeting before bringing back proposed regulations to the Board of Regents for action at the April meeting.