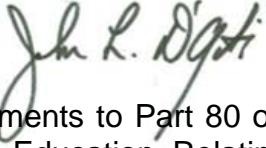




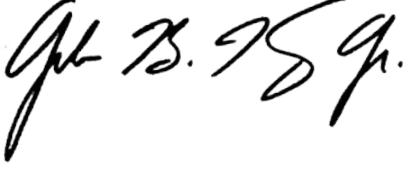
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

To: Higher Education Committee

From: John L. D'Agati 

Subject: Proposed Amendments to Part 80 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the New Teacher and School Building Leader Certification Examination Requirements

Date: June 10, 2013

Authorization(s):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents amend Part 80 of the Commissioner's Regulations relating to the requirements for the new certification examinations for certain teachers and school district leaders?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its June 2013 meeting (see attachment - Amendment to the Regulations). A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on July 10, 2013. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

At the November and December 2009 Board of Regents meetings, the Board approved a number of initiatives for the purpose of transforming teaching and learning and school leadership in New York State. One of those initiatives was to strengthen the assessments for the certification of teachers and school leaders by creation of a teacher performance assessment and increased rigor of the content specialty exams. In May 2010, the Board reaffirmed the direction for the new exams, which includes the

Academic Literacy Skills Test (ALST), the Educating All Students test (EAS), the Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA), and the School Building Leader performance assessment (SBL), as well as revisions to the Content Specialty Tests (CSTs). The new exams were described in New York's Race to the Top (RTTT) application and are part of New York's RTTT scope of work and were scheduled to be implemented in May 2013. At the Board's September 2011 meeting, Department staff presented background information on the exams and proposed revisions to the content of the examinations based on research and developments in educational policy. At the February 2012 meeting, the Board of Regents approved a shift in the implementation date of the new certification examinations (edTPA, ALST, EAS and SBL) based on input from the field. At the December 2012 meeting, the Board adopted changes to the regulations regarding the requirements for the new certification exams for teachers and school building leaders. These new examinations are required for all candidates who apply for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or for candidates who apply for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but do not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014.

Since the adoption of these regulations, the Department has continued to work with the field and the assessment developers, engaging in a series of meetings in a variety of venues to support this work.

As a result of these meetings, a series of recommendations and suggestions have been made regarding several of the assessments, specific to certain certification areas and titles. The changes below reflect these technical changes that should be made to ensure that all teacher and leader candidates are prepared to take on their job responsibilities once hired.

Requirements for Initial Certificates in CTE Fields - Option A and B Pathways

In December, regulations were amended to require candidates who apply for CTE certification on or after May 1, 2014 or candidates who apply for CTE certification on or before April 30, 2014 but do not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, to pass the edTPA for initial certification.

However, given the vast selection of specified CTE subject areas (there are 40 specific certification areas) available within the CTE field, combined with relatively low rates of certificates issued, the creation of individual edTPAs for each specific subject area was not practical. The Department is currently working to develop a general performance assessment for general CTE certificate areas or clusters, consistent with National Standards, that would apply to all those seeking a CTE certificate in New York. In addition, since the majority of individuals seeking to obtain CTE certification come directly from the field rather than an education program, requiring the edTPA for initial certification can act as a barrier to job entry, given that these individuals do not have access to a classroom prior to obtaining certification.

Therefore, the proposed amendment eliminates the requirement for candidates to complete the edTPA for initial certification and instead requires a performance assessment for CTE teachers seeking their professional certification when it becomes available.

Requirements for School District Leader Candidates

Candidates who apply for School District Leader certification are currently required to successfully complete a New York State educational leadership program and achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the school district leadership examination.

However, the Department believes that school district leaders should possess the skills and knowledge needed to adequately meet the diverse needs of students and to ensure that all students are successful. In addition, it is important for school district leaders to be aware of, and understand, the benefits of fostering strong home-school relationships, specifically as it relates to academic success. It is essential for school district leaders to understand the rights and responsibilities of various stakeholders, such as teachers, children, and parents, in a variety of situations and also have the ability to lead and direct the work at the school building level. Therefore, the proposed amendment requires a candidate who applies for a professional School District Leader certificate on or after May 1, 2015 to pass the Educating All Students examination.

In addition, any candidate applying for a School District Leader certificate under the endorsement pathway on or after October 2, 2013, shall achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the School District Leader examination. Candidates applying for a School District Leader certificate on or after May 1, 2014 or candidates applying for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but who do not meet all the requirements for a professional certificate on April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the Educating All Students examination.

Requirements for Initial Certification in Education Technology Specialist

In December, regulations were amended to require that candidates applying for certification on or after May 1, 2014, or candidates who applied for certification on or before April 30, 2014, but did not meet all of the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, pass the edTPA, EAS, ALST, and the CST.

An Education Technology Specialist's role in a school is to help train and support the work of the teacher. He/she is expected to help the teacher learn how to employ technology in support of student learning. He/she is not expected to engage with students directly. As a result, candidates for the Education Technology Specialist must complete a practicum, rather than student teaching. The proposed amendment removes the edTPA requirement for these candidates.

Requirements for Initial certification of Speech and Language Disabilities

In December, regulations were amended to require that candidates applying for certification on or after May 1, 2014, or candidates who applied for certification on or before April 30, 2014, but did not meet all of the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, pass the edTPA, EAS, and the ALST. These candidates are

required to pass the Speech and Language Pathology (PRAXIS) examination which is also required for a professional license as a Speech and Language Pathologist.

Because the role of these teachers is often that of a related services position, rather than one in which they deliver content, it is unlikely that their student teaching will be in a role in which they instruct a class. Therefore, the proposed amendment removes the edTPA requirement for these candidates.

However, pursuant to Section 80-3.9 of the Commissioner's Regulations, speech-language pathologists licensed under Title VIII who apply for an initial certificate as a teacher of speech and language disabilities (all grades) are not subject to the examination requirements for such teachers. These candidates are required to have a passing score on the Speech and Language Pathology (PRAXIS) examination in order to be licensed.

Recommendation

Not Applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will be presented for permanent adoption at the September 2013 Regents meeting, after the 45-day public comment period required pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the September meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on October 2, 2013.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

1. Clause (b) of subparagraph (i) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 80-3.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, for candidates applying for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or candidates who applied for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but did not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, such candidates shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination teacher performance assessment, the educating all students test, the academic literacy skills test and the content specialty test(s) in the area of the certificate, except that a candidate seeking an initial certificate in the title of Speech and Language Disabilities (all grades) shall not be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the content specialty test or the teacher performance assessment and a candidate seeking an initial certificate in the title of Educational Technology Specialist (all grades) shall not be required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the teacher performance assessment.

2. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of section 80-3.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall meet the examination requirement by meeting the requirements in one of the following clauses:

(a) (1) A candidate who has completed all requirements for initial certification on or before April 30, 2014 and who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination written assessment of teaching skills, on or before April 30, 2014 or achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the [teacher performance assessment and the] educating all students test.

(2) A candidate who applies for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or a candidate who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the [New York State Teacher Certification Examination teacher performance assessment and the] educating all students test.

(b) . . .

3. Subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of section 80-3.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall meet the examination requirement by meeting the requirements in one of the following clauses:

(a) (1) A candidate who has completed all requirements for initial certification on or before April 30, 2014 and who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination communication and quantitative skills test and the written assessment of teaching skills on or before April 30, 2014 or evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the communication and quantitative skills test[, the teacher performance assessment] and the educating all students test.

(2) A candidate who applies for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or a candidate who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination communication and quantitative skills test [,the teacher performance assessment] and the educating all students test.

4. Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of section 80-3.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, as follows:

(iii) Examination.

(a) A candidate who has completed all requirements for a professional certificate and who apply for certification on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination liberal arts and sciences test on or before April 30, 2014 or evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification [Examination] academic literacy skills test and the teacher performance assessment for career and technical subjects, when developed and available.

(b) A candidate who applies for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for a professional certificate on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification [Examination] academic literacy skills test and the teacher performance assessment(s) for career and technical subjects, when developed and available.

5. Subparagraph (iii) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of section 80-3.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, as follows:

(iii) Examination.

(a) A candidate who has completed all other requirements for a professional certificate and who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination liberal arts and sciences test on or before April 30, 2014 or a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification [Examination] academic literacy skills test and the teacher performance assessment(s) for career and technical subjects when the Department determines that the test is available and required.

(b) A candidate who applies for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for a professional certificate on April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification [Examination] academic literacy skills test and the teacher performance assessment(s) for career and technical subjects when the Department determines that the test is available and required.

6. A new clause (c) is added to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 80-3.10 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(c) Examination requirement. Any candidate applying for a professional certificate as a school district leader on or after May 1, 2015, shall also achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the educating all students test.

7. A new paragraph (4) is added to subdivision (b) of section 80-5.15 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(4) Examination requirement. Any candidate applying for a professional certificate as a school district leader on or after May 1, 2015, shall also achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the educating all students test.

8. Clauses (a) and (b) of subparagraph (ii) of subdivision (b) of section 80-5.13 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(a) A candidate who applies for an initial certificate on or before April 30, 2014, and who has completed all other requirements for an initial certificate or who has completed all requirements for an initial certificate except completion of their registered Transitional B program, on or before April 30, 2014 shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher certification examination written assessment of teaching skills test, and any other examination required for the provisional or initial certificate, as applicable, and/or a bilingual education extension of such certificate, as applicable, on or before April 30, 2014 or a satisfactory level of performance on teacher performance assessment, if applicable for that certificate title, and any other examination required for the provisional or initial certificate, as applicable, and/or a bilingual education extension of such certificate, as applicable.

(b) A candidate who applies for certification on or after May 1, 2014 or who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for a professional certificate on April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the teacher performance assessment, if applicable for that certificate title, and any other examination required for

the provisional or initial certificate, as applicable, and/or a bilingual education extension of such certificate, as applicable.

8. A new subparagraph (v) is added to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of section 80-5.20 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective October 2, 2013, to read as follows:

(v) Examination requirement.

(a) Any candidate applying for a professional certificate as a school district leader through endorsement of a certificate of another state or territory pursuant to the provisions of this section on or after October 2, 2013, shall achieve a satisfactory level of performance on the school district leader examination.

(b) Any candidate applying for a professional certificate as a school district leader through endorsement of a certificate of another state or territory on or after May 1, 2014 or who applies for certification on or before April 30, 2014 but does not meet all the requirements for a professional certificate on April 30, 2014, shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the educating all students test.