



TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Elizabeth R. Berlin *Elizabeth R Berlin*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Creation of Safety Nets for the Science Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)

DATE: August 29, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S): *Sharon L. Takee* *MaryEllen Eis*

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment to §80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the creation of safety nets for the science Content Specialty Tests (CSTs)?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be presented to the Full Board for adoption as a permanent rule at the September 2019 meeting of the Board of Regents. A copy of the proposed rule is attached. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on May 22, 2019. Following the 60-day public comment period under the State Administrative Procedure Act, the Department received no comments on the proposed amendment. Therefore, an Assessment of Public Comment is not required and no changes to the proposed amendment are needed. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

In December 2016, the Board of Regents approved the New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards. The new standards prompted the Department to redevelop the Content Specialty Tests (CSTs) for certification in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics. Through the test redevelopment process, the test frameworks and items were redesigned to ensure that candidates in the science subject areas demonstrated the knowledge reflected in the new standards.

It is anticipated that the revised CSTs in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics will become operational in fall 2019. The test frameworks for the revised science CSTs are available online for candidates and teacher preparation programs to assist in the preparation of candidates for the revised tests.

Proposed Amendment

The Department is proposing to create safety nets for the CSTs in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics that would become effective when the revised CSTs in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics become operational. When these revised CSTs become operational, a candidate would be able to take either the applicable revised CST or the applicable predecessor CST in Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science or Physics for one year after the revised CST becomes operational. The proposed safety nets allow candidates to be held harmless during a one-year transition period from the predecessor CSTs to the revised CSTs.

Related Regents Items

[May 2019: Proposed Amendment to §80-1.5 Relating to the Creation of Safety Nets for Science CSTs](#)

(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/519hed3.pdf>)

Recommendation

VOTED: That Section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be amended, as submitted, effective September 25, 2019.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the September 2019 Regents meeting, the permanent rule will take effect on September 25, 2019.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 305, 3001, 3003, 3004 and 3009 of the Education Law.

Subparagraph (v) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (c) of section 80-1.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be added to read as follows:

(v) When the revised content specialty examination(s) in biology, chemistry, earth science and physics become available, a candidate may take either the applicable revised content specialty examination or the applicable predecessor content specialty examination in biology, chemistry, earth science or physics, for one year after the applicable revised content specialty examination(s) become operational.