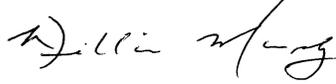




TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: William P. Murphy 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Sections 80-3.7 and 80-5.22 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Degree and Experience Requirements for College Professors for the Transitional G Certificate and Through the Individual Evaluation Pathway to Certification

DATE: September 1, 2022

AUTHORIZATION(S): 

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of sections 80-3.7 and 80-5.22 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the degree and experience requirements for college professors for the Transitional G certificate and through the individual evaluation pathway to certification?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its September 2022 meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached (Attachment A).

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on September 28, 2022, for a 60-day public comment period. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

The Transitional G certificate is one option for current and former college professors to obtain certification and teach in New York State public schools. The requirements for this two-year certificate include (8 NYCRR 80-5.22(a)(2)):

- **Education**
Holding a graduate degree in the area of the certificate title sought, from an institution of higher education.¹
- **Experience**
Having at least two years of satisfactory teaching experience at the postsecondary level in the certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the Department, provided that such experience must have been completed within 10 years immediately preceding the application for the certificate.
- **Employment**
Having a commitment from a school district for at least two years of employment as a teacher in the area of the certificate sought.

College professors can also become eligible for the five-year Initial certificate through the individual evaluation pathway to certification by either: (1) gaining two years of satisfactory teaching experience while holding the Transitional G certificate; or (2) completing at least six credits of undergraduate pedagogical coursework or four credits of graduate coursework in specified areas, such as the methods of teaching (8 NYCRR 80-3.7(a)(3)(xiii)). They are also subject to the experience requirement described above. However, regarding the education requirement, college professors' graduate degree can be either in the area of a certificate title sought, or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the Department, from an acceptable institution of higher education.

Proposed Amendments

College professors are excellent candidates to fill open teaching positions in a variety of subject areas during this time of teacher shortages. Therefore, the Department proposes to expand the P-12 teaching pool through the following three flexibilities:

- Removing the requirement that college professors' relevant experience be completed within 10 years immediately preceding the certificate application date in order to obtain a Transitional G certificate or Initial certificate.

¹ The institution of higher education must be "accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, a higher education institution that the commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or from an institution authorized by the Board of Regents to confer degrees" (8 NYCRR 80-5.22(a)(2)(i)).

- Allowing college professors to meet the education requirement if they have a baccalaureate degree in the area of a certificate title (or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the Department), so long as they possess a graduate degree in another area.
- Allowing, for the Transitional G certificate education requirement, consideration of a graduate degree in a closely related subject area acceptable to the Department. This is consistent with the education requirement for college professors through the individual evaluation pathway to certification.

The proposal also includes a technical revision, repealing a provision in section 80-3.7 of the Commissioner’s regulations that applied to college professors who met certain education and experience requirements and applied for a certificate in grades 7-12 on or after February 2, 2011, and prior to February 2, 2019, in earth science, biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics or a closely related field. This provision is defunct; all those who would have qualified are eligible to apply for certification under the current requirements.

Related Regents Items

January 2019: [Proposed Amendments to Section 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Initial Certificate Requirements for Individuals Who Have a Graduate Degree and Two Years of Postsecondary Teaching Experience in the Area of the Certificate Sought or a Closely Related Area](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/119brca7.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/119brca7.pdf>)

March 2018: [Proposed Amendments to §52.21 and 80-5.22 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Transitional G and Pre-Professional Certificates](https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea1.pdf)
(<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea1.pdf>)

Recommendation

Not applicable.

Timetable for Implementation

Following the 60-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 January 2023 meeting. If adopted at the January meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on January 25, 2023.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 101, 207, 208, 305, 308, 3001, 3004 and 3009 of the Education Law.

1. Clause (c) of subparagraph (ii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of section 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is REPEALED.

2. Subparagraph (xiii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (a) of section 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(xiii) For candidates with a baccalaureate degree and/or a graduate degree and two years of post-secondary teaching experience in the certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department[, who apply for a certificate on or after February 2, 2019], the candidate shall not be required to meet the general requirements in subparagraph (2)(iii) or (2)(iv) of this subdivision. However[.] , the candidate shall meet the following requirements:

(a) Degree completion. The candidate shall possess a graduate degree in the area of a certificate title sought or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department, or a baccalaureate degree in the area of a certificate title or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department and a graduate degree in another area, from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, a higher education institution that the commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or from an institution authorized by the Board of Regents to confer degrees and whose programs are registered by the department. The candidate shall have

completed a [graduate] major in the subject of the certificate sought, or in a related field approved by the department for this purpose.

(b) Post-secondary teaching experience. The candidate must show evidence of at least two years of satisfactory teaching experience at the post-secondary level in the certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department[: provided, however, that such experience must have been completed within 10 years immediately preceding the application for an initial certificate unless the candidate holds/held a Transitional G certificate].

(c) ...

(1) ...

(2) ...

3. Section 80-5.22 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

80-5.22 Transitional G certificate for career changers and others holding a [graduate or higher degree] baccalaureate and/or graduate degree in [any area for which there is] the area of a certificate title and with at least two years of acceptable post-secondary teaching experience[in any area for which there is a certificate title or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department].

4. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of section 80-5.22 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(2) Limitations. The transitional G certificate shall authorize a candidate to teach only in a school district for which a commitment for employment has been made. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following paragraphs:

(i) Education. A candidate shall hold a graduate degree in the area of a certificate title or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department, or a baccalaureate degree in the area of a certificate title or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department and a graduate degree in another area or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department, from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, a higher education institution that the commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or from an institution authorized by the Board of Regents to confer degrees. A candidate shall complete study in the means for identifying and reporting suspected child abuse and maltreatment, which shall include at least two clock hours of coursework or training in the identification and reporting of suspected child abuse or maltreatment in accordance with the requirements of section 3004 of the Education Law. In addition, the candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of coursework or training in school violence prevention and intervention, as required by section 3004 of the Education Law, which is provided by a provider approved or deemed approved by the department pursuant to Subpart 57-2 of this Title. A candidate who applies for the certificate on or after December 31, 2013, shall also complete at least six clock hours, of which at least three hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction, of coursework or training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, as required by section 14 of the Education Law.

(ii) Post-secondary teaching experience. The candidate shall submit evidence of at least two years of satisfactory teaching experience at the post-secondary level in the

certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department[; provided, however, that such experience must have been completed within 10 years immediately preceding the application for a transitional G certificate].

(iii) ...