



**TO:** Higher Education Committee

**FROM:** William P. Murphy *William Murphy*

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to Section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Content Core Requirement in Computer Science Teacher Preparation Programs

**DATE:** December 3, 2020

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**

*John L. D'Agati* *Tommy* *Bell*

**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Discussion**

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment to Section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the content core requirement in computer science teacher preparation programs?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Review of Policy.

**Proposed Handling**

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its December 2020 meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached.

**Procedural History**

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on December 30, 2020. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

**Background Information**

At its March 2018 meeting, the Board of Regents established the Computer Science certificate and program registration requirements for teacher preparation

programs leading to this certificate. All teacher preparation programs include a content core requirement, which requires candidates to complete study that prepares them with the knowledge base to teach the subject area of the certificate title in accordance with the State learning standards for students as prescribed in Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations.

For computer science teacher preparation programs, section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations states that the content core requirement must be at least 12 semester hours that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in understanding five computer science concepts, until such time as the Department adopts State learning standards for computer science. The five concepts are: algorithms and programming, computing systems, data and analysis, impacts of computing, and networks and the internet.

The Department is proposing New York State (NYS) K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards for adoption at the December 2020 meeting. With the adoption of these new State learning standards for computer science, the content core requirement described in section 52.21 for computer science teacher preparation programs requires corresponding amendment. It is anticipated that there will also be proposed revisions to Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations related to these standards in fall 2021.

### **Proposed Amendment**

The Department is proposing to revise the content core requirement for program registration for Computer Science certification in section 52.21. The amendment would make the content core requirement for the Computer Science certificate similar to the content core requirement for the other special subject (all grades) certificate titles.

Specifically, the content core requirement would require teacher candidates to complete at least 12 semester hours of computer science coursework that provides a knowledge base to ensure that they are prepared to develop curriculum and teach students consistent with the new NYS K-12 Computer Science and Digital Fluency Learning Standards. The 12 semester hours of computer science coursework would no longer address five specified concepts. Since the standards will be added to Part 100 of the Commissioner's regulations at a later date, the proposed amendment does not reference Part 100 at this time.

### **Related Regents Items**

March 2018: [Proposed Amendments to Part 30 of the Regents Rules and §52.21 and Part 80 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to a New Certification Area and Tenure Area for Computer Science](http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea2.pdf)  
(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/318hea2.pdf>)

January 2020: [Conditional Approval of the Learning Standards for Computer Science and Digital Fluency](#)

(<http://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/120p12a4.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 April 2021 meeting. If adopted at the April 2021 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on April 28, 2021.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

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

1. Subclause (1) of clause (a) of subparagraph (v) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be amended to read as follows:

(a) Content core. Except as provided in paragraph (1) of this subdivision, in addition to meeting the general requirements for the content core prescribed in clause (2)(ii)(b) of this subdivision, the content core shall be a major or its equivalent in the subject area of the certificate that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in meeting the State learning standards for students, as applicable to one of the following subjects and prescribed in Part 100 of this Title: dance, family and consumer sciences, health education, music, physical education, technology education, theatre, or visual arts.

(1) For certificates in computer science (all grades), in addition to meeting the general requirements for the content core prescribed in clause (2)(ii)(b) of this subdivision[ and until such time as the department adopts State learning standards for computer science in Part 100 of this Title], the content core shall be at least a total of 12 semester hours[ that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in understanding the following concepts:

- (i) algorithms and programming;
- (ii) computing systems;
- (iii) data and analysis;

(iv) impacts of computing; and

(v) networks and the internet.] that provides a knowledge base for assisting students in meeting the State learning standards for students in computer science.