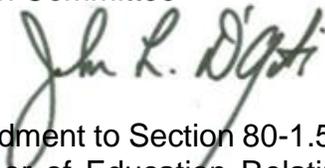




TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

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: April 25, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

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 is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its May 2019 Board of Regents meeting (Attachment A is a copy of the proposed amendment).

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on May 22, 2019. 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

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

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 September 2019 meeting. If adopted at the September 2019 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective 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.