

COVID-19 Emergency Regulations Part VI & Further Regulatory Flexibility for the Reopening of Schools

October 19, 2020



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- As a result of the pandemic and the Governor's numerous Executive Orders, the Department adopted emergency regulations at the April, May, June, July, and September 2020 Board of Regents meetings to address the issues resulting from the interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis and to plan for the reopening of schools.
- The Department is proposing further regulatory changes to provide additional flexibility to the field and students during this crisis, to address anticipated issues resulting from the continued interruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis and to prepare for the reopening of schools.

Early Learning

- **Registration extension for voluntarily registered schools**
Commissioner's regulations are amended to provide that any voluntarily registered nursery school or prekindergarten whose registration expires in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year, and does not receive a required on-site visit from Department staff due to the COVID-19 crisis will have their registration extended, subject to revocation for cause and their registration will be up for renewal in the 2021-2022 school year.

Higher Education

• **Coaching Evaluations**

- Commissioner's regulations are amended to provide additional flexibility for temporary coaching candidates of extracurricular interscholastic sports.
- These candidates are required to receive a satisfactory evaluation by the principal or athletic director for each of the preceding three years that they coached in the sport for which a professional coaching certificate is sought.
- The Department permanently adopted amendments at the September 2020 Regents meeting which provided that candidates who held a temporary coaching certificate for the winter 2019-2020 and/or spring 2020 sports season did not have to have receive an evaluation by the principal or athletic director for such sports seasons for professional coaching certification due to the COVID-19 crisis.
- The Department is now proposing to expand the time period during which candidates are not required to receive an evaluation for this certification to include the fall 2020, winter 2020-2021, and spring 2021 sports seasons.

Higher Education

- **School Building Leader (SBL) Programs**

- At its December 2017 meeting, the Board of Regents approved requiring school building leader (SBL) programs, that are registered or seek registration on or after December 1, 2020, to be aligned with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSELs), with some modifications.
- Programs have been aligned with the Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards.
- The Department is proposing to amend the Commissioner's regulations to extend the date by which SBL programs must be aligned with the new PSELs until September 1, 2022 to provide SBL programs additional time to conform with the new standards due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Higher Education

- **Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR)**
 - The Department is proposing to make a corresponding amendment to the Commissioner's regulations to provide that the definition of "Leadership standards" for purposes of APPR reviews will mean the new PSEL standards for reviews conducted on and after the 2024-2025 school year.
 - This amendment aligns the date by which SBL programs must adopt the new PSEL standards with the date the PSEL standards will be used in conducting APPR reviews



Questions?