



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendments to Section 52.21 and Part 80 of the  
Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to  
Transitional B and C Certificates and Registered Programs  
Leading to these Certificates

DATE: September 4, 2012

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**SUMMARY**

**Issue for Discussion**

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment to section 52.21 and Part 80 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to Transitional B and C certificates and registered programs leading to these certificates?

**Reason(s) for Consideration**

Review of Policy.

**Proposed Handling**

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its September 2012 meeting.

**Procedural History**

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making was published in the State Register on August 1, 2012. Supporting materials are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

## Background

New York State is currently facing a shortage of qualified teachers in many certificate areas, particularly in math, science and foreign languages, as well as a shortage of qualified teachers in many geographic locations.

Currently, New York State teachers holding a certificate in one area are precluded from entering a Transitional B or C program to obtain a certificate in another area. For example, a teacher with 30 science credits who holds a valid New York State certificate in Early Childhood Education may not enter into a Transitional B program to obtain certification as a middle school science teacher. To address the current shortages that exist in many certificate areas, the proposed amendment allows certified teachers in one certification area to enter a Transitional B program in a different certification area, which will help put qualified teachers in our State's classrooms where shortages exist.

Acknowledging that there are several pathways to obtain certification, the proposed amendment requires all registered programs to provide candidates with written notice prior to admission into a Transitional B program that there are several other pathways leading to certification in New York which may be less costly and or time intensive, including, but not limited to, individual transcript evaluation, interstate reciprocity, and traditional preparation pathways. This notice could be provided to candidates by simply providing candidates with a link to our website which lists the certification pathways in New York. Providing this notice to candidates will allow them to make informed decisions as to whether to enter the program, while at the same time allowing qualified candidates to obtain jobs in areas where there is a demand for teachers.

## Recommendation

Not applicable.

## Timetable for Implementation

It is anticipated that the proposed rule will be presented for permanent adoption at the October Regents meeting, after the 45-day public comment period required pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act. If adopted at the October Regents meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on October 31, 2012.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 101, 207, 215, 305 and 3001.

1. Paragraph 43 of subdivision (b) of section 80-1.1 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012, to read as follows:

(43) Transitional B certificate means a [the first] teaching certificate obtained by a candidate enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program, as prescribed in section 52.21 of this Title, that qualifies that individual in the public schools of New York State, subject to the requirements and limitations of this Part[, and excluding the provisional certificate, initial certificate, temporary license, transitional A certificate, and transitional C certificate].

2. Paragraph 44 of subdivision (b) of section 80-1.1 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012, to read as follows:

(44) Transitional C certificate means a [the first] teaching certificate obtained by a candidate holding an appropriate academic or graduate professional degree and enrolled in an intensive program leading to a professional certificate that qualifies that individual to teach in the public schools of New York State, subject to the requirements and limitations of this Part [, and excluding the provisional certificate, initial certificate, temporary license, transitional A certificate, and transitional C certificate].

3. Subparagraph (xvi) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012, to read as follows:

(xvi) Transitional B certificate means a [the first] teaching certificate obtained by a candidate enrolled in an alternative teacher certification program or a Model-B teacher preparation track of a clinically rich graduate level teacher preparation pilot program, as prescribed in this section, that qualifies that individual to teach in the public schools of

New York State, subject to the requirements and limitations of Part 80 of this Title[, and excluding the provisional certificate, initial certificate, temporary license, transitional A certificate, and transitional C certificate].

4. Subparagraph (xvii) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012 to read as follows:

(xvii) Transitional C certificate means a [the first] teaching certificate obtained by a candidate holding an appropriate academic or graduate professional degree and enrolled in an intensive program leading to a professional certificate that qualifies that individual to teach in the public schools of New York State, subject to the requirements and limitations of Part 80 of this Tile [, and excluding the provisional certificate, initial certificate, temporary license, transitional A certificate, and transitional C certificate].

5. Subparagraph (xvi) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012, to read as follows:

(xvi) Intensive programs leading to professional certificates for individuals, including career changers and others, holding a transitional C certificate and an appropriate graduate academic or graduate professional degree.

(a) . . . .

(b) . . . .

(c)(1) Prior to admission into a program, the institution shall provide written notification to candidates of the variety of teacher certification pathways available in New York, including, but not limited to individual transcript evaluation, interstate reciprocity and traditional preparation pathways. Such notification shall also make

candidates aware that other pathways may be less costly and/or time intensive and that they should review all their alternatives before entering the program.

(2) The program shall require the candidate to present evidence that the candidate meets the requirements for a transitional C certificate for admission to the program. The candidate shall present evidence of holding such transitional C certificate prior to the commencement of mentored teaching, based in part on the holding of an appropriate graduate academic or graduate professional degree.

6. A new subclause (5) is added to clause (a) of subparagraph (xvii) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended, effective October 31, 2012, to read as follows:

(5) Prior to admission into a program, the institution shall provide written notification to candidates of the variety of teacher certification pathways available in New York, including, but not limited to individual transcript evaluation, interstate reciprocity and traditional preparation pathways. Such notification shall also make candidates aware that other pathways may be less costly and/or time intensive and that they should review all their alternatives before entering the program.