



To: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
From: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*  
Subject: Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education (RATE) Extension  
Date: November 8, 2013

Authorizations:

*J. B. G. Jr.*  
**SUMMARY**

Issue for Decision (Consent Agenda)

Should the Board of Regents extend the Regents Accreditation of Teacher Education (RATE) for two institutions for the period of one year?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Required by State regulation.

Proposed Handling

This question will come before the full Board at its November 2013 meeting for final action.

Background Information

In 1998, the Board of Regents adopted a new teaching policy, "Teaching to Higher Standards: New York's Commitment." As a result of that policy, in 1999, the Board adopted section 52.21(b)(2)(iv)(c) of the Commissioner's Regulations, which required that all New York State teacher education programs be accredited by an acceptable accrediting organization. Teacher education programs accredited through RATE are required by Commissioner's Regulations to maintain continuous accreditation once initial accreditation is achieved.<sup>1</sup>

At the September 2010 Regents meeting, the Board voted to discontinue the RATE option for New York State teacher education programs largely due to resource shortages

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner's Regulations require programs to obtain accreditation within seven years of initial registration and then continuously.

stemming from the State's fiscal environment. Institutions under RATE accreditation were notified to seek accreditation through the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). To give institutions sufficient time to transition to a new accreditor, the Board voted to extend the accreditation of RATE institutions to December 31, 2013 for institutions needing to be accredited on or before that date.

The two institutions that request a RATE extension are the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University and Yeshiva University. Yeshiva seeks a RATE extension because it did not submit to TEAC documentation needed for TEAC to commence the required on-site accreditation visit prior to the December 31, 2013 expiration of its RATE accreditation<sup>2</sup>. Yeshiva requests an additional year of RATE accreditation so that it can meet the requirement of continuous accreditation and prepare for the TEAC accreditation process. Cornell will discontinue offering teacher education programs sometime in 2014, so has asked for a one-year RATE extension to allow its current teacher education candidates to complete their programs.

#### New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University

The New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University has three registered programs leading to teacher certification: Adolescent Education leading to the M.A.T. degree; Agricultural Education leading to the M.A.T. degree; and Agriculture Science Education leading to the B.S. degree. In Cornell University's application to deactivate the program, the Dean stated that the future of the College's department "has been debated in the college for several years." After weighing available resources against future needs, the decision was made that the College "does not have the additional resources that would need to be invested in the program to ensure its pre-eminence as we move into the future." Education faculty were moved to other departments at the time of the decision, though at least two in the M.A.T. department have left since the decision to deactivate the program was made.

Currently enrolled students will be able to complete their degrees and qualify for teacher certification by August 31, 2014. Cornell is in final stages of developing an articulation agreement with Ithaca College. Future Cornell students minoring in education who wish to continue on into teacher certification will be able to transfer into Ithaca's M.A.T. program to complete their teacher preparation in the sciences. A minor in education will continue to be available at the (Cornell) University level on one of two tracks:

- 1) Teacher Certification Track: Cornell students will be offered automatic admission into Ithaca College's graduate M.A.T. program if they graduate with a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average and a major in the desired area of certification.
- 2) General Education Track: The General Education track is designed for students with a broad interest in education. The college states this option may be particularly attractive to students pursuing college or university level teaching, those pursuing

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<sup>2</sup> TEAC requires institutions to submit an "auditable brief" before TEAC will schedule an on-site accreditation visit. Yeshiva University submitted a brief to TEAC, but it was determined to be "not auditable." Currently Yeshiva's on-site visit is scheduled for spring 2014.

Teach for America and other non-traditional teacher preparation routes, and those pursuing the scholarly study of education.

### Yeshiva University

Yeshiva University has four registered programs leading to teacher certification; Early Childhood Education leading to a Bachelor of Arts; Childhood Education also leading to a Bachelor of Arts; Childhood Education 1-6 leading to a Master of Science; and Adolescent Education 7-12 leading to a Master of Science. Yeshiva 's program has a small cohort size. For the last three years the cohort of program completers has been below 20 candidates.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that, in order to meet the program accreditation requirement in Commissioner's Regulations and hold candidates enrolled in these teacher preparation institutions harmless, the Board of Regents extend, for one year, until December 31, 2014, RATE accreditation for the New York State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University and Yeshiva University.