



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

**TO:** Higher Education Committee

**FROM:** William P. Murphy 

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment of Section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Establishing a Program Review Process for Teacher Preparation Programs

**DATE:** January 2, 2026

**AUTHORIZATION(S):**  

## **SUMMARY**

### **Issue for Discussion**

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to establishing a program review process for teacher preparation programs?

### **Reason for Consideration**

Review of policy.

### **Proposed Handling**

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its January 2026 meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is attached (Attachment A).

### **Procedural History**

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on January 28, 2026, for a 60-day public comment period. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

## **Background Information**

Section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations sets forth the standards and expectations for all registered teacher preparation programs leading to classroom teacher certification. Currently, teacher preparation programs are reviewed by the Department at the time of initial registration and again only when a program undergoes a substantial change that meets a defined threshold. As a result, programs may go unreviewed for extended periods of time, limiting opportunities to verify alignment with the regulations, including those enacted after the program is registered to address emerging priorities.

## **Proposed Amendment**

To strengthen quality assurance of teacher preparation programs, the proposed amendment establishes a new program review process that would determine if the programs continue to meet the pedagogical core requirements, including clinical experiences, in section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations. The program review would be timed to coincide with the program's cyclic accreditation review by a professional education accrediting association that is approved by the Department.

Beginning September 1, 2027, this formal process would require institutions to submit information about their teacher preparation programs to the Department on a prescribed form. Additionally, Department staff would participate in the institutions' accreditation site visit. The Department would then review information gathered through the submitted materials and site visit.

Within 30 days of concluding its review, the Department would notify the institution if the programs continue to meet the pedagogical core requirements, including clinical experiences, or if there is not sufficient evidence that certain requirements are met for identified programs. If certain requirements are not met, the institution must submit additional information outlined by the Department within 60 days of the notice, which may include a plan for meeting the requirements. If a program does not meet all pedagogical core requirements within one year of the notice, it may be subject to denial of re-registration.

The goal of this program review process is to verify ongoing alignment with the Commissioner's regulations and to foster continuous program improvement through collaborative engagement among the Department, institutions, and accrediting associations. The proposed process benefits both the Department and institutions by ensuring accurate oversight and creating opportunities for collaboration. By synchronizing the proposed program review with accreditation cycles, the Department aims to streamline oversight while providing institutions with timely feedback to strengthen program quality and ensure alignment with current and future regulatory priorities.

## **Related Regents Items**

Not applicable.

## **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 May 2026 meeting. If adopted at the May 2026 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on June 3, 2026.

**Attachment A**

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 101, 207, 208, 215, 305, 308, 3001, and 3004 of the Education Law.

1. Paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended by adding a new subparagraph (v) to read as follows:

(v) Program review.

(a) On or after September 1, 2027, all teacher preparation programs registered pursuant to this section shall undergo a program review by the Department to coincide with the program's cyclic accreditation review by a professional education accrediting association pursuant to subparagraph (ii)(c)(2) of this paragraph. Such Department program review shall determine if the programs continue to meet the pedagogical core requirements prescribed in this section, including clinical experiences, for such programs.

(b) The institution shall submit information required by the Department for the program review on a form and in a timeframe prescribed by the Commissioner. The Department shall review the submitted form and supporting evidence and participate in the site visit conducted by the professional education accrediting association as part of its accreditation review.

(c) Within 30 days of concluding its review of the submitted materials and additional evidence gathered during the site visit, the Department will notify the institution if the programs continue to meet the pedagogical core requirements

prescribed in this section, including clinical experiences, or if there is not sufficient evidence that certain requirements are met for identified programs.

(1) If certain requirements are not met, the institution shall submit additional information outlined by the Department within 60 days of the notice, which may include a plan for meeting the requirements. Such plan must provide a timeline of no more than one year for meeting the requirements.

(2) If a program does not meet all pedagogical core requirements within one year of the notice, it may be subject denial of re-registration in accordance with the requirements of section 52.23 of this Part.