



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

TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: William P. Murphy *William P. Murphy*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Sections 52.21, 80-1.2, 80-3.7, and 80-5.6 and Subpart 80-6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to Teaching Assistant Certification

DATE: February 27, 2025

AUTHORIZATION(S): *William P. Murphy*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment of sections 52.21, 80-1.2, 80-3.7, and 80-5.6 and Subpart 80-6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to Teaching Assistant certification?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its March 2025 meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment (Attachment A) is attached.

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on March 26, 2025, for a 60-day public comment period. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

Background Information

Teaching assistants support teachers and can provide instructional services to students under the general supervision of a certified teacher. There are four types of Teaching Assistant (TA) certificates: Level I, Level II, Level III, and Pre-Professional. The requirements and validity periods for these certificates are outlined in section 80-5.6 of the Commissioner's regulations and described below:

- **Level I.** Candidates must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent and pass a certification examination of teaching assistant skills. The certificate is valid for three years from its effective date¹ and can be renewed once for three years.²
- **Level II.** Candidates must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, pass a certification examination of teaching assistant skills, and complete at least nine semester hours of collegiate study acceptable toward meeting the requirements for an associate or baccalaureate degree. They must also have experience as a teaching assistant for one school year under a Level I or Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate or under the former temporary license authorizing employment as a teaching assistant. The certificate is valid for three years from its effective date.³
- **Level III.** Candidates must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, pass a certification examination of teaching assistant skills, and complete at least 18 semester hours of collegiate study acceptable toward meeting the requirements for an associate or baccalaureate degree. They must also have experience as a teacher or as a teaching assistant for one school year under a Level I, Level II, or Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate or under the former temporary license authorizing employment as a teaching assistant. The certificate is continuously valid. Level III TA certificate holders are subject to registration and continuing teacher and leader education (CTLE) requirements.
- **Pre-Professional.** Candidates must hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, pass a certification examination of teaching assistant skills, complete at least 18 semester hours of collegiate study acceptable toward meeting the requirements for an associate or baccalaureate degree, and be matriculated in a registered teacher preparation program, or its equivalent, or in a program with an articulation agreement with such a program. They must also have experience as a teaching assistant for one school year under a

¹ The validity period of the Level I TA certificate may be extended for a candidate called to active duty in the Armed Forces for the period of active service and an additional 12 months from the end of such service.

² Current regulations permit more than one renewal under limited circumstances.

³ The validity period of the Level II TA certificate may be extended for reasons related to active duty in the Armed Forces or applications for citizenship or permanent residency.

Level I, Level II, Level III, or Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate or under the former temporary license or continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant. The certificate is valid for five years from its effective date⁴ and can be renewed.⁵

Teaching assistants who hold the Level I, II, or III TA certificate can perform duties such as:

1. working with individual pupils or groups of pupils on special instructional projects;
2. providing the teacher with information about pupils that will assist the teacher in the development of appropriate learning experiences;
3. assisting pupils in the use of available instructional resources, and assisting in the development of instructional materials;
4. utilizing their own special skills and abilities by assisting in instructional programs in such areas as: world languages other than English, arts, crafts, music, and similar subjects; and
5. assisting in related instructional work as required.

In addition to the above duties, Pre-professional TA certificate holders may, at the discretion of the employing district and while under the general supervision of a teacher, perform duties such as:

1. working with small groups of children so the teacher can work with a large group or individual children;
2. helping a teacher to construct a lesson plan;
3. presenting segments of lesson plans, as directed by the teacher;
4. communicating with parents of students at a school site or as otherwise directed by a teacher; and
5. helping a teacher to train other teaching assistants.

The current TA certificate structure is complex and can pose challenges for teaching assistants who want to continue in that role or become a classroom teacher. There is not currently a clear pathway for TAs who wish to become teachers because the TA certification requirements are not aligned with teaching certification requirements. For example, although the current TA certification progression requires TAs to complete additional college-level coursework, it does not require any pedagogical coursework, which is necessary to obtain Initial teacher certification.

⁴ The validity period of the Pre-professional TA certificate and any renewal of such certificate may be extended for the time of active service and an additional 12 months from the end of such service.

⁵ To be renewed, the candidate must be matriculated in a registered teacher preparation program, or its equivalent, or in a program with an articulation agreement with such a program and have completed 30 semester hours of coursework in such a program during the five-year period in which the certificate is held.

The four levels of TA certification can also be confusing for candidates. While the requirements for each level of certification vary, there is no difference in a TA's scope of practice, except for the Pre-professional TA certificate, which has a limited use that does not apply to the vast majority of teaching assistants. Additionally, because this structure requires teaching assistants to advance through the certification levels within specific timeframes, it creates a scenario where teaching assistants who hold an expired Level I or Level II TA certificate but did not complete the experience needed for the Level III TA certificate while their TA certificate was valid cannot obtain a TA certificate in the future.

Proposed Amendments

The Department proposes to establish Initial and Professional TA certificates to replace Level I, II, and III TA certificates. The revision streamlines TA certification, makes the progression similar to other educator certificates, and creates an intentional pathway for teaching assistants to become teachers. The proposed regulatory amendment also creates requirements for institutions of higher education to register programs that lead to Professional TA certification.

Initial TA Certificate

The proposed Initial TA certificate requires candidates to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent and pass a certification examination of teaching assistant skills. However, candidates who hold or held a teaching certificate and passed a content knowledge certification examination will not be required to take and pass the certification examination of teaching assistant skills to obtain the Initial TA certificate.

The Initial TA certificate would be valid for five years from its effective date and continually renewable for a period of five years from the effective date of renewal, thereby lengthening the validity period for the first TA certificate and ensuring that teaching assistants would always be able to obtain TA certification if their Initial TA certificate expires.

For the proposed certificate to be renewed,⁶ a candidate must also complete 100 clock hours of acceptable CTLE from an approved CTLE sponsor since the issuance or most recent renewal of the Initial TA certificate. Candidates may also complete college coursework in any area, which would count towards the CTLE clock hours. Candidates must maintain a record of completed CTLE for at least three years from the end of the validity period of the Initial TA certificate or most recent renewal of such certificate in which the CTLE was completed. Additionally, the records must be available for review by the Department upon request.

⁶ For individuals called to active duty in the Armed Forces, the validity period for an Initial TA certificate may also be extended for the time of active service and an additional 12 months from the end of such service.

Professional TA Certificate

Teaching assistants can progress from the Initial TA to the Professional TA certificate or continually renew their Initial TA certificate. The proposed Professional TA certificate is continuously valid.

Candidates can meet the education requirement for the proposed Professional TA certificate by: (1) holding a bachelor's degree⁷ in any area, (2) completing a registered program leading to Professional TA certification, or (3) attaining a high school diploma or its equivalent and successfully completing at least 18 semester hours of college coursework,⁸ provided that at least nine of the 18 semester hours must be pedagogical coursework⁹ in one or more of the following subjects:

- human development and learning;
- teaching students with disabilities and special health-care needs;
- teaching literacy skills;
- curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including instructional technology; and
- foundations of education (historical, philosophical, sociological, and/or legal).

The above subjects are consistent with the pedagogical core requirement for the individual evaluation pathway to Initial teacher certification, creating a pathway for Professional TA certificate holders to become a teacher. For the 18-semester hour option, the remaining semester hours must be additional pedagogical coursework in one or more of the above subjects and/or coursework in English language arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.

For the proposed Professional TA certificate, candidates must also complete three school years, or its equivalent, of teaching assistant experience under an Initial TA, Level I TA, Level II TA, Level III TA, Pre-professional TA, or Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate or a continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant, or one school year, or its equivalent, as a teacher in the classroom teaching service. The examination requirements for the proposed Initial TA and Professional TA certificates are the same.

⁷ The bachelor's degree must be from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, an institution of higher education that the Commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or an institution authorized by the Regents to confer degrees and whose programs are registered by the Department.

⁸ All coursework must be completed at an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, an institution of higher education that the Commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or an institution authorized by the Regents to confer degrees and whose programs are registered by the Department. Additionally, the candidate must earn at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course.

⁹ Pedagogical coursework must be completed at an institution of higher education that has at least one teacher preparation program that leads to certification in the jurisdiction where the institution is located or an institution of higher education that has an articulation agreement with such a program.

Because the education and experience requirements for the Professional TA certificate ensure that teaching assistants are prepared for the classroom, holders of such certificate would have the same expanded scope of practice as Pre-Professional TA certificate holders. This will enable Professional TA certificate holders to provide more support for teachers and have a greater impact on students. The proposed Professional TA certificate also creates an alignment between teaching assistant certification and teaching certification.

The Department proposes to amend Subpart 80-6 of the Commissioner's regulations to make Professional TA certificate holders subject to registration and CTLE requirements due to the certificate being continuously valid. This is similar to the rules applicable to Level III TA certificate holders.

Pre-professional TA Certificate

The Pre-professional TA certificate is optional; it constitutes another pathway for candidates to pursue the Initial teaching certificate or proposed Professional TA certificate. The Pre-professional TA certificate currently requires at least 18 semester hours of college coursework. The Department proposes to make the education requirement for this certificate more flexible by giving candidates the choice of either: (1) matriculating in a registered teacher preparation program, or its equivalent, or in a program with an articulation agreement with such a program, (2) matriculating in a registered program leading to the Professional TA certificate, or (3) meeting the education requirement for the Professional TA certificate.

Additionally, the proposed amendment clarifies that the Pre-professional TA certificate will expire before the end of the validity period (five years from the effective date) if the candidate exits a program leading to teacher or TA certification.

Student Teaching

The Department proposes to amend section 80-3.7 of the Commissioner's regulations to allow candidates who hold or held a Pre-professional TA or Professional TA certificate to satisfy the teaching experience requirement for the individual evaluation pathway to Initial teacher certification by completing one school year, or its equivalent, of experience under such certificate and while completing duties outlined in the expanded scope of practice under the supervision of a certified teacher. This revision promotes the pathway for teaching assistants to become teachers by permitting a year of experience in lieu of student teaching. It also removes a time and financial barrier for those who are not enrolled in a teacher preparation program.

The teacher preparation program registration requirements outlined in section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations include a provision for alternate models that include student teaching and clinical experiences. In the case of alternate models when a candidate holds a Pre-professional TA certificate and is employed by a school district

or BOCES, the institution of higher education and school district or BOCES must provide such candidate with the same and/or similar student teaching or clinical experience as required in the regulations during their employment. The proposed amendment extends this provision to Professional TA certificate holders in addition to Pre-professional TA certificate holders.

TA Program Registration Requirements

To provide teaching assistants with the knowledge and skills to successfully work with students, the Department proposes to amend section 52.21 of the Commissioner's regulations to create requirements for institutions of higher education to register programs that lead to Professional TA certification. Institutions of higher education encompass community colleges as well as institutions leading to undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The proposed registration requirements include that programs must require candidates to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent for admission and must submit an institutional recommendation for the Pre-professional TA certificate upon a candidate's enrollment in the program. Programs must notify the Department if the candidate exits the program before the expiration date of such certificate.

The proposed registration requirements for teaching assistant programs include the same 18-semester hour option as the proposed Professional TA certificate. Candidates must successfully meet all program requirements for program completion and an institutional recommendation for the Professional TA certificate.

Level I, II, and III TA Certificates

The Department will temporarily maintain the Level I, II, and III TA certificate requirements as part of the transition to the new Initial TA and Professional TA certification structure. Candidates need to hold, or have held, a Level I or Level II TA certificate to obtain Level III TA certification.¹⁰ The proposed deadlines to apply and qualify for these three TA certificates are:

- **Level I.** Candidates must apply for Level I TA certificates on or before August 31, 2025, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2025; provided, however, that the Commissioner may renew such certificates, as applicable, on or before February 1, 2029, pursuant to the requirements of section 80-5.6. Level I TA certificates will not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2026.
- **Level II.** Candidates must apply for Level II TA certificates on or before August 31, 2028, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2028. Level II TA certificates will not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2029.

¹⁰ A candidate may also obtain Level III TA certification with an Emergency COVID-19 TA certificate or a continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant.

- **Level III.** Candidates must apply for Level III TA certificates on or before August 31, 2031, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2031. Level III TA certificates will not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2032.

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 July 2025 meeting. If adopted at the July meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on July 30, 2025.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 101, 207, 208, 305, 308, 3001, 3004, and 3009 of the Education Law.

1. Item (vii) of subclause (2) of clause (b) of paragraph (ii) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(vii) In the case of alternate models that include college-supervised student teaching, residencies, or clinical experiences conducted when a candidate is employed by a school district or BOCES under a pre-professional teaching assistant or professional teaching assistant certificate pursuant to Part 80 of this Title, the institution and employing school district or BOCES will provide candidate(s) holding such certificate with the same and/or similar student teaching or clinical experience as required under this section while employed at the school district or BOCES. No approval from the commissioner is required for such alternate models nor shall they be time limited.

2. Subdivision (e) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is added to read as follows:

(e) Programs leading to certification as a teaching assistant. To be registered as a program leading to the professional certificate as a teaching assistant, the program shall meet the requirements of this subdivision.

(1) Admissions requirement. Programs shall require candidates to hold a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(2) Programs shall submit an institutional recommendation for the pre-professional certificate as a teaching assistant upon a candidate's enrollment in the program. Programs shall notify the Department if the candidate exits the program before the expiration date of such certificate.

(3) Programs leading to the professional certificate as a teaching assistant shall require at least 18 semester hours of study, provided that:

(i) at least nine of the 18 semester hours shall be pedagogical coursework in one or more of the following subjects:

(a) human development and learning, including but not limited to the impact of culture, heritage, socioeconomic level and factors in the home, school and community that may affect a student's readiness to learn;

(b) teaching students with disabilities and special health-care needs to develop the skills necessary to provide specially designed instruction to students with disabilities to participate and progress in the general education curriculum;

(c) teaching literacy skills;

(d) curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including instructional technology;

and

(e) foundations of education (historical, philosophical, sociological and/or legal);

and

(ii) the remaining semester hours shall be additional pedagogical coursework in one or more of the subjects outlined in subitem (i) of this clause and/or coursework in English language arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies.

(4) For program completion and institutional recommendation for the professional certificate as a teaching assistant, candidates shall have successfully met all program requirements established by the institution of higher education and requirements for program registration.

3. Subdivision (b) of section 80-1.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(b) ...

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(4) ...

(5) [The commissioner shall issue level I teaching assistant certificates, level II teaching assistant certificates, and level III teaching assistant certificates, and pre-professional teaching assistant certificates beginning with an effective date of September 1, 2004.

(6) The commissioner shall not issue permanent certificates in the classroom teaching service or in the school administrator and supervisor title to candidates with an expired provisional certificate in the classroom teaching service or school administrator and supervisor title to candidates applying for a permanent certificate on or after October 1, 2014.

[(7)] (6) ...

[(8)] (7) ...

[(9)] (8) ...

[(10)] (9) ...

[(11)] (10) ...

[(12)] (11) ...

[(13)] (12) ...

(13) The commissioner shall not issue level I teaching assistant certificates with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2026, and candidates shall apply for such certificates on or before August 31, 2025, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2025; provided, however, that the commissioner may renew such certificates, as applicable, on or before February 1, 2029, pursuant to the requirements of section 80-5.6 of this Part. The commissioner shall not issue level II teaching assistant certificates with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2029, and candidates shall apply for such certificates on or before August 31, 2028, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2028. The commissioner shall not issue level III teaching assistant certificates with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2032, and candidates shall apply for such certificates on or before August 31, 2031, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2031.

4. Clause (b) of subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of section 80-3.7 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(b) Teaching experience.

(1) Candidates who apply for a certificate prior to September 1, 2028 shall satisfactorily complete 40 school days, or its equivalent, in a college-supervised student

teaching experience, as defined in section 52.21(b)(2) of this Title, or as an employed teacher, or as otherwise prescribed in subclause (3) of this subdivision.

(2) Candidates who apply for a certificate on or after September 1, 2028 shall satisfactorily complete 70 school days, or its equivalent, in a college-supervised student teaching experience, as defined in section 52.21(b)(2) of this Title, or as an employed teacher, or as otherwise prescribed in subclause (3) of this subdivision.

(3) Candidates who hold or held a pre-professional teaching assistant or professional teaching assistant certificate shall satisfactorily complete one school year, or its equivalent, of experience under such certificate and while completing duties outlined in section 80-5.6(c)(1)(ii)(b) of this Part under the supervision of a certified teacher.

[(3)] (4) For a candidate applying for a first certificate, the experience prescribed in subclauses (1) or (2) of this subdivision must be in a school at one or more of the grade levels within the range of grades covered by the certificate and must be in the subject area of the certificate title sought by the candidate. For other candidates, such experience must be in a school offering instruction in any grade, pre-kindergarten through grade 12. For experience as an employed teacher or as a teaching assistant who holds or held a pre-professional teaching assistant or professional teaching assistant certificate, the candidate shall submit a statement verifying the period of employment from the employing school district administrator in the case of a public school and the appropriate school administrator in the case of a nonpublic school.

5. Subdivision (c) of section 80-5.6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(c) Teaching assistant.

(1) Description and duties.

(i) Description. A teaching assistant is appointed by a board of education to provide, under the general supervision of a [licensed or]certified teacher, direct instructional service to students.

(ii) ...

(a) ...

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(4) ...

(5) ...

(b) Teaching assistants who hold the pre-professional teaching assistant or professional teaching assistant certificate shall have the same scope of practice as other teaching assistants, in accordance with the duties prescribed in clause (a) of this subparagraph. Within that scope of practice, teaching assistants holding a pre-professional teaching assistant or professional teaching assistant certificate may, at the discretion of the employing district, and while under the general supervision of a teacher, perform such duties as:

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(4) ...

(5) ...

(2) ...

(i) ...

(a) ...

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(b) ...

(1) ...

(2) ...

(3) ...

(ii) The requirements of this subparagraph shall apply to candidates who apply [on or after February 2, 2004] for a [credential] certificate to work as a teaching assistant. The candidate shall apply to the department for the certificate.

(a) Initial teaching assistant certificate.

(1) Preparation. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following items:

(i) Education. The candidate shall have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent.

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on a certification examination of teaching assistant skills; provided that candidates who hold or held a teaching certificate and achieved a satisfactory level of performance on a content knowledge certification examination are

not required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance on a certification examination of teaching assistant skills.

(2) Time validity. The certificate shall be valid for five years from its effective date.

(j) The certificate shall be continually renewable for a period of five years from the effective date of renewal for an unlimited number of occasions. For the certificate to be renewed, the candidate shall complete 100 clock hours of acceptable continuing teacher and leader education (CTLE) from an approved CTLE sponsor pursuant to section 80-6.9 of this Part since the issuance or most recent renewal of the initial teaching assistant certificate; provided that, for credit-bearing university or college courses, such courses may be in any area and count towards CTLE clock hours, each semester-hour of credit shall equal 15 clock hours of CTLE credit, and each quarter-hour of credit shall equal 10 clock hours of CTLE for purposes of this section.

Candidates shall maintain a record of completed CTLE pursuant to section 80-6.7 of this Part, and such records shall be retained for at least three years from the end of the validity period of the initial teaching assistant certificate or most recent renewal of such certificate in which the CTLE was completed and shall be available for review by the department upon request.

(i) For individuals called to active duty in the Armed Forces, the validity period for an initial teaching assistant certificate may be extended by the commissioner for the time of active service and an additional 12 months from the end of such service.

(b) Professional teaching assistant certificate.

(1) Preparation. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following items:

(i) Education. The candidate shall meet the requirements in one of the following subitems:

(a) hold a baccalaureate from an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, an institution of higher education that the commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or an institution authorized by the Regents to confer degrees and whose programs are registered by the department;

(b) have successfully completed a program registered as leading to the professional teaching assistant certificate pursuant to section 52.21(e) of this Title; or

(c) have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent and successfully completed at least 18 semester hours of collegiate study, provided that:

(1) at least nine of the 18 semester hours shall be pedagogical coursework in one or more of the following subjects:

(i) human development and learning, including but not limited to the impact of culture, heritage, socioeconomic level and factors in the home, school and community that may affect a student's readiness to learn;

(ii) teaching students with disabilities and special health-care needs to develop the skills necessary to provide specially designed instruction to students with disabilities to participate and progress in the general education curriculum;

(iii) teaching literacy skills;

(iv) curriculum, instruction, and assessment, including instructional technology;

and

(v) foundations of education (historical, philosophical, sociological and/or legal);

(2) the remaining semester hours shall be additional pedagogical coursework in one or more of the subjects outlined in subitem (c) of this clause and/or coursework in English language arts, mathematics, science, and/or social studies;

(3) all coursework shall be completed at an institution of higher education that is accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized for this purpose by the United States Department of Education, an institution of higher education that the commissioner deems substantially equivalent, or an institution authorized by the Regents to confer degrees and whose programs are registered by the department;

(4) pedagogical coursework shall be completed at an institution of higher education that has at least one teacher preparation program that leads to certification in the jurisdiction where the institution is located or an institution of higher education that has an articulation agreement with such a program; and

(5) the candidate shall have achieved at least a C or its equivalent in any undergraduate level course and at least a B- or its equivalent in any graduate level course in order for the semester hours associated with that course to be credited toward meeting the semester hour requirements for a certificate under this section.

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on a certification examination of teaching assistant skills; provided that candidates who hold or held a teaching certificate and achieved a satisfactory level of performance on a content knowledge certification examination are

not required to achieve a satisfactory level of performance on a certification examination of teaching assistant skills.

(iii) Experience. The candidate shall successfully complete three school years, or its equivalent, of teaching assistant experience under an initial teaching assistant, level I teaching assistant, level II teaching assistant, level III teaching assistant, pre-professional teaching assistant, or emergency COVID-19 teaching assistant certificate or a continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant, or one school year, or its equivalent, as a teacher in the classroom teaching service as defined in section 80-1.1 of this Part.

(2) Validity of certificate. The professional teaching assistant certificate shall be continuously valid.

[(a)] (c) Level I teaching assistant certificate for candidates who apply on or before August 31, 2025, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2025. Such certificate shall not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2026; provided, however, that the commissioner may renew such certificates, as applicable, on or before February 1, 2029.

(1) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(2) ...

[(b)] (d) Level II teaching assistant certificate for candidates who apply on or before August 31, 2028, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31,

2028. Such certificate shall not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2029.

(1) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(iii) ...

(2) ...

[(c)] (e) Level III teaching assistant certificate for candidates who apply on or before August 31, 2031, and qualify for such certificates on or before December 31, 2031. Such certificate shall not be issued with an effective date that begins after February 1, 2032.

(1) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(iii) ...

(iv) Certification. The candidate shall hold or have held a level I teaching assistant, level II teaching assistant, or emergency COVID-19 teaching assistant certificate or a continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant.

(2) ...

[(d)] (f) Pre-professional teaching assistant certificate.

(1) Preparation. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following items:

(i) Education. The candidate shall have attained a high school diploma or its equivalent[, successfully completed a total of at least 18 semester hours of collegiate study acceptable toward meeting the requirements for an associate or baccalaureate degree,] and shall meet the requirements in one of the following subclauses:

(a) be matriculated in a program registered as leading to teacher certification pursuant to section 52.21 of this Title, or its equivalent, or in a program with an articulation agreement with such a program[.];

(b) be matriculated in a program registered as leading to the professional teaching assistant certificate pursuant to section 52.21(e) of this Title; or

(c) meet the education requirement for the professional teaching assistant certificate.

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State assessment of teaching assistant skills.

(iii) Experience. The candidate shall submit adequate evidence substantiating satisfactory employment as a teaching assistant for one school year under [a] an initial teaching assistant, level I teaching assistant [certificate], [a] level II teaching assistant [certificate], [a] level III teaching assistant [certificate], or [an] emergency COVID-19 teaching assistant certificate, or under a [temporary license or] continuing certificate authorizing employment as a teaching assistant.

(2) Validity of certificate and renewal of certificate. The certificate shall be valid for five years from its effective date, at which time it must be renewed to be valid; provided, however, the certificate shall have an earlier expiration date if the candidate

exists a program leading to teacher or teaching assistant certification, as determined by the institution of higher education. In order to be renewed, the holder of the certificate shall demonstrate matriculation in a program registered as leading to teacher certification pursuant to section 52.21 of this Title, or its equivalent, or in a program with an articulation agreement with such a program, and completion during the five-year period in which the certificate is held of 30 semester hours of coursework in such a program. For individuals called to active duty in the Armed Forces, the validity period for a pre-professional teaching assistant certificate and any renewal of such certificate may be extended by the commissioner for the time of active service and an additional 12 months from the end of such service.

6. Subpart 80-6 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

Subpart 80-6. Registration Requirements for Holders of a Permanent or Professional Certificate in the Classroom Teaching Service and Educational Leadership Service and Holders of a Professional Teaching Assistant or Level III Teaching Assistant [Level III] Certificate and the Establishment of Continuing Teacher and Leader Education (CTLE) Requirements for Holders of Professional Certificates in the Classroom Teaching and Educational Leadership Service and Professional Teaching Assistant or Level III Teaching Assistant [Level III] Certificate Holders for the 2016-2017 School Year and Thereafter

7. Section 80-6.1 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

As used in this Subpart:

(a) ...

(b) *Certificate holder* means all holders of a permanent or professional certificate in the classroom teaching service or educational leadership service [(i.e., school building leader, school district leader, school district business leader)] and holders of a professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate.

(c) *Continuing teacher and leader education certificate holder (CTLE certificate holder)* means all holders of a professional certificate in the classroom teaching service or educational leadership service [(i.e., school building leader, school district leader, school district business leader)] and holders of a professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate employed in a school district or board of cooperative educational services or nonpublic school in New York State.

(d) ...

(e) ...

8. Section 80-6.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(a) ...

(b) ...

(c) Any individual who was issued a permanent or professional certificate in the classroom teaching service or educational leadership service [(i.e., school building leader, school district leader, school district business leader)] or a professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate prior to July 1, 2016, shall apply for initial registration during the 2016-2017 school year during his/her month of birth, beginning on July 1, 2016 and shall renew his/her

registration, on a form prescribed by the department, in the last year of each subsequent five-year period thereafter.

(d) Any individual who is issued a permanent or professional certificate in the classroom teaching service or educational leadership service [(i.e., school building leader, school district leader, school district business leader)] or a professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate on or after July 1, 2016, shall be automatically registered, and the certificate holder shall re-register during the 5th succeeding birthday month thereafter and during each birthday month in the last year of each subsequent five-year period.

(e) ...

(f) ...

(g) ...

(h) ...

(i) ...

9. Subdivision (a) of section 80-6.3 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education is amended to read as follows:

(a) Requirements for CTLE certificate holders (holders of professional certificates in the classroom teaching service, educational leadership service and professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate holders).

(1) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(iii) for a CTLE certificate holder who holds a professional teaching assistant or level III teaching assistant certificate, a minimum of 15 percent of the required CTLE clock hours shall be dedicated to language acquisition addressing the needs of English language learners and integrating language and content instruction for such English language learners.

(2) ...

(i) ...

(ii) ...

(3) ...