



TO: Higher Education Committee
FROM: John L. D'Agati 
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Sections 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Requirements for Transitional D Programs that Lead to School District Leader Certification
DATE: April 25, 2019

AUTHORIZATION(S):




SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendments to §52.21 of the Commissioner's Regulations relating to the requirements for Transitional D programs that lead to School District Leader certification?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for discussion at its May 2019 Board of Regents meeting (Attachment A is a copy of the proposed amendment).

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on May 22, 2019. Supporting materials for the proposed amendment are available upon request from the Secretary to the Board of Regents.

Background Information

There are several options for gaining Professional School District Leader certification. One option is that candidates could enroll in an alternative school district leader program, also known as a Transitional D program. This alternative program is currently available for exceptionally qualified candidates who do not have three years of classroom teaching service, pupil personnel service, and/or educational leadership service.

Candidates must apply for a Transitional D certificate upon acceptance into a Transitional D program. This certificate enables the candidates to work in a school district or BOCES as a school district leader while they complete their program requirements. The Transitional D certificate expires in five years or when candidates complete their program, whichever comes first.

The Department has encountered several situations where candidates were not aware that they needed to apply for a Transitional D certificate upon enrollment in their Transitional D program. By not obtaining this certificate, the administrative experience that candidates gained during their program cannot count towards the three-year experience requirement for the Professional School District Leader certificate because experience obtained in a school district or BOCES can only count towards certification if the candidate held a valid certificate.

Proposed Amendment

The Department is proposing to require that the Transitional D program provide written notification to candidates that they must apply for the Transitional D certificate upon enrollment in the program and submit a program endorsement to the Office of Teaching Initiatives. The program endorsement would indicate that the candidate is eligible for a Transitional D certificate and include the program's description of how the candidate met each criteria used by the program to determine that the applicant had exceptional qualifications for becoming a school district leader with the substantial equivalent of three years of experience as a teacher, administrator, or in pupil personnel service in a public or non-public school. The revisions would ensure that candidates know they must apply for certification, and that such application must include an assurance from the institution that the candidate is enrolled in a Transitional D program.

The Department is also proposing to remove the stipulation that limits admission to Transitional D programs to candidates with limited or no school experience. As currently written, candidates with three or more years of classroom teaching service, pupil personnel service, and/or educational leadership service cannot be admitted to a Transitional D program. This stipulation prevents educators with three years of experience or more, and who may be excellent leaders and have relevant experience, from becoming a school district leader through a Transitional D program.

Related Regents Items

N/A

Recommendation

N/A

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 September 2019 meeting. If adopted at the September 2019 meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective on September 25, 2019.

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

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

Paragraph (4) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be amended to read as follows:

(4) Alternative school district leader certification program. Specific requirements for programs preparing candidates for the professional certificate as a school district leader (superintendent of schools, district superintendent, deputy superintendent, associate superintendent, assistant superintendent, and any other person having responsibility for general district-wide administration, except those responsibilities defined for school district business leaders). [Such alternative programs are for exceptionally qualified candidates who do not have three years of classroom teaching service, and/or pupil personnel service, and/or educational leadership service.]

(i) General requirements. [Programs shall meet the general requirements for all programs preparing education leaders in paragraph (1) of this subdivision.]

(a) Programs shall meet the general requirements for all programs preparing education leaders in paragraph (1) of this subdivision.

(b) Prior to admission into a program, the institution shall provide written notification to candidates that they must apply for a Transitional D certificate pursuant to section 80-5.15 of this Title upon enrollment in the program.

(c) The program shall also submit a program endorsement in accordance with section 80-5.15 of this Title to the Office of Teaching Initiatives, notifying the Office that the candidate is eligible for a Transitional D certificate, including the program's description of how the candidate met each criteria used by the program to determine

that the applicant had exceptional qualifications for becoming a school district leader with the substantial equivalent of three years of experience as a teacher, administrator, or in pupil personnel services in a public or non-public school.