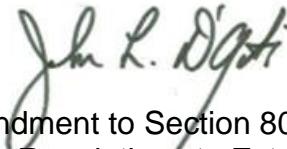




TO: Higher Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Section 80-3.5 of the Commissioner's Regulations to Establish New Pathway Options for the Transitional A Certificate in a Career and Technical Education Subject for Candidates Who do not Meet the Current Requirements but who Possess Industry Experience, Credentials, or are in the Process of Completing Certification

DATE: June 6, 2016

AUTHORIZATION(S):  

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents amend section 80-3.5 of the Commissioner's Regulations to establish new pathway options for the Transitional A certificate in a career and technical education subject for candidates who do not meet the current requirements but who possess industry experience, credentials, or are in the process of completing certification?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the Higher Education Committee for emergency action at the June 2016 Board of Regents meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is included as Attachment A. A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on June 29, 2016. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents. A Statement of Facts and Circumstances Justifying the Emergency Action is included as Attachment B.

Background Information

Over the past several years, the Board of Regents has discussed the expansion of career and technical education (CTE) programs in school districts and BOCES generally and of integrated credit allowance which will in turn create a greater demand for teachers certified in CTE titles. At its November 2013 meeting, the Board of Regents was presented with recommendations that would support existing and anticipated demand for teachers certified in CTE titles.

Currently, a Transitional A certificate in a specific CTE subject is issued to permit the employment of an individual in a specific CTE education title who does not meet the requirements for an initial certificate, but who possesses the requisite occupational experience. This certificate is valid for three years, and the candidate would complete the additional requirements for an initial certificate during the three years.

The three options available for a Transitional A certificate prior to the May 2016 Board of Regents meeting were:

- **Option A.** Candidates who possess an associate's degree (or its equivalent) in the career and technical field in which the certificate is sought, and who have at least two years of documented and satisfactory work experience in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought;
- **Option B.** Candidates who possess a high school diploma or its equivalent (but who do not possess an associate's degree or its equivalent in the certificate area), and who have at least four years of documented and satisfactory work experience in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought; and
- **Option C.** Candidates who possess an associate's degree (or its equivalent) in the career and technical field in which the certificate is sought, and who have at least two years of documented and satisfactory teaching experience at the postsecondary level (excluding experience as a teaching assistant) in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought.

All three Transitional A pathways described above also require:

- (1) Coursework training in identification of and reporting of child abuse or maltreatment, school violence prevention and intervention, and harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention;
- (2) Evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Exam Content Specialty Test in the area of the certificate, and
- (3) An employment and support commitment—the candidate must submit evidence of having a commitment for three years of employment as a teacher in a public or

nonpublic school or BOCES, which includes a mentored experience for the first year consisting of daily supervision by an experienced teacher during the first 20 days. However, the mentoring is not required if the candidate has two years of satisfactory employment as a teacher of students in grades 7-12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES.

Establishment of Additional Pathways

At its May 2016 Board of Regents meeting, the Board adopted by emergency action a proposed amendment to provide an additional opportunity for teachers to obtain a Transitional A certificate through a Pathway D Option. Candidates may be eligible for a Transitional A certificate if they hold a full private career school teacher license issued by the Department's Bureau of Proprietary School Supervision (BPSS) and have taught under that license for two years in a New York State licensed private career school and meet certain other requirements.

Currently, pursuant to section 126.6 of the Commissioner's Regulations, there are three license levels (permit, provisional and full license) for teachers licensed by BPSS. To apply for a permit, provisional or full license, candidates must complete an application and provide BPSS with all necessary documentation required for the level and license area(s) in which the candidate wishes to be licensed in. Currently, the requirements for a full Private Career School Teacher License by BPSS are (for most CTE subject areas):

- (1) To qualify for a full license, candidates must have completed a total of 90-clock hours in Professional Education, including methods of teaching or a total of 9 semester credits of college course work in Professional Education.

Full licenses are valid for 4 years and are renewable.

During the three years that a candidate has a Transitional A certificate, they may apply for and complete all requirements for an Initial Certificate. These requirements include completion of college coursework, receiving a passing score on the NYSTCE exams, and completion of a 40 day student teaching placement in the certificate area sought.

Proposed Amendment

To provide additional certification pathways in CTE fields to address the immediate shortages in the field, the Department recommends establishing new pathway options G, H, and I for Transitional A certificates for candidates who meet one of the three requirements listed below:

- **Option G.** Have a minimum of two years of work experience in the CTE subject area of the certificate sought and hold an industry-related credential, where available, or pass an industry accepted examination as approved by the Department *and* have an employment and support commitment

- **Option H.** Are enrolled in an approved CTE teacher preparation program and have either a minimum of one year of related work experience and/or take and pass an industry accepted examination *and* have an employment and support commitment
- **Option I.** Are currently certified 7-12 grade teachers in *any* CTE subject area with two years of documented work experience or who hold industry-recognized credentials, where available, in the related CTE area *and* have an employment and support commitment

The proposed amendment provides additional opportunities for individuals with specific technical and career experience to obtain a Transitional A teaching certificate in their area of expertise, or a related area, thus allowing them to teach CTE subjects at the secondary school level. This will help to increase the supply of qualified, certified teachers in the career and technical education field in order to satisfy the increasing demand for those teachers.

Recommendation

VOTED: That new paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) are added to subdivision (b) of section 80-3.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective June 14, 2016, as an emergency action upon a finding by the Board of Regents that such action is necessary for the preservation of the general welfare in order to increase the supply of qualified, certified teachers in the career and technical education field to satisfy the increasing demand for those teachers in the 2016-2017 school year.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted as an emergency measure at the June 2016 Regents meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective as an emergency rule on June 14, 2016. It is anticipated that the proposed amendment will then come before the Full Board for adoption as a permanent rule at the September 2016 Regents meeting. If adopted at the September Regents meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective as a permanent rule on September 28, 2016.

Attachment A

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to Education Law sections 207, 305, 3001, 3006, 3009.

1. New paragraphs (5), (6), and (7) are added to subdivision (b) of section 80-3.5 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective June 14 2016, to read as follows:

(5) Option G: The requirements of this paragraph are applicable to candidates who seek an initial certificate and who hold an industry acceptable credential in a career and technical education subject and have at least two years of acceptable work experience in the certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following subparagraphs:

(i) Education. The candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of course work or training regarding the identification and reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment, in accordance with requirements of section 3004 of the Education Law. In addition, the candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of coursework or training in school violence prevention and intervention, as required by section 3004 of the Education Law, which is provided by a provider, approved or deemed approved by the department pursuant to Subpart 57-2 of this Title. A candidate who applies for the certificate shall also complete at least six clock hours, of which at least three hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction, of coursework or training in harassment,

bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, as required by section 14 of the Education Law.

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination content specialty test(s) in the area of the certificate.

(iii) Industry Related Credential or Industry Accepted Examination. The candidate shall either:

(a) hold an industry related credential in the certificate area taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department; or

(b) receive a passing score on an industry accepted career and technical examination that demonstrates mastery in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought or a closely related area as approved by the department through a request for qualifications process.

(iv) Experience. The candidate shall have at least two years of satisfactory work experience in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought or a closely related subject area, as determined by the Commissioner;

(v) Employment and support commitment. The candidate shall submit evidence of having a commitment for three years of employment as a teacher in grades 7 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES, which shall include a mentored experience for the first year that will consist of daily supervision by an experienced teacher during the first 20 days of teaching, except that such mentoring shall not be required if the candidate has two years of satisfactory employment as a teacher of students in grades 5 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES.

(6) Option H: The requirements of this paragraph are applicable to candidates who seek an initial certificate and who are enrolled in an approved career and technical

education program registered pursuant to section 52.21 of this Title, or its equivalent in the certificate area to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department; and have either at least one year of satisfactory experience in the career and technical area to be taught or in a closely related area or receive a passing score on an industry accepted career and technical examination that demonstrates mastery in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought or a closely related area as approved by the department through a request for qualifications process. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following subparagraphs:

(i) Education.

(a) The candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of course work or training regarding the identification and reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment, in accordance with requirements of section 3004 of the Education Law. In addition, the candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of coursework or training in school violence prevention and intervention, as required by section 3004 of the Education Law, which is provided by a provider, approved or deemed approved by the department pursuant to Subpart 57-2 of this Title. A candidate shall also complete at least six clock hours, of which at least three hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction, of coursework or training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, as required by section 14 of the Education Law; and

(b) the candidate shall be enrolled in an approved career and technical education program registered pursuant to section 52.21 of this Title

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination content specialty test(s) in the area of the certificate.

(iii) Experience and/or Examination. The candidate shall either:

(a) have at least one year of satisfactory work experience in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought or a closely related area, as determined by the Commissioner; or

(b) receive a passing score on an industry accepted career and technical examination that demonstrates mastery in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought or a closely related area as approved by the department through a request for qualifications process.

(iv) Employment and support commitment. The candidate shall submit evidence of having a commitment for three years of employment as a teacher in grades 7 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES, which shall include a mentored experience for the first year that will consist of daily supervision by an experienced teacher during the first 20 days of teaching, except that such mentoring shall not be required if the candidate has two years of satisfactory employment as a teacher of students in grades 5 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES

(7) Option I: The requirements of this paragraph are applicable to candidates who seek an initial certificate and who are currently certified as a teacher in grades 7-12 in the career and technical education subject to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department, and who either: hold an industry related credential the career and technical education subject to be taught or in a closely related subject area acceptable to the department or have two years of satisfactory experience in the certificate area sought or a closely related subject area, as determined by the Commissioner. The candidate shall meet the requirements in each of the following subparagraphs:

(i) Education. The candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of course work or training regarding the identification and reporting suspected child abuse or maltreatment, in accordance with requirements of section 3004 of the Education Law. In addition, the candidate shall complete at least two clock hours of coursework or training in school violence prevention and intervention, as required by section 3004 of the Education Law, which is provided by a provider, approved or deemed approved by the department pursuant to Subpart 57-2 of this Title. A candidate who applies for the certificate on or after December 31, 2013, shall also complete at least six clock hours, of which at least three hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction, of coursework or training in harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention and intervention, as required by section 14 of the Education Law.

(ii) Examination. The candidate shall submit evidence of having achieved a satisfactory level of performance on the New York State Teacher Certification Examination content specialty test(s) in the area of the certificate.

(iii) Certification as a Career and Technical Education Teacher in grades 7-12. The candidate shall hold certification as a teacher in grades 7-12 in the career and technical education subject to be taught or in a closely related subject area pursuant to Part 80 of this Title, that is acceptable to the department.

(iv) Experience or Industry Related Credential. The candidate shall either:

(a) hold an industry related credential in the certificate area sought or in a related area, as determined by the Department; or

(b) have at least two years of documented and satisfactory work experience in the career and technical education subject for which a certificate is sought, or a related area, as determined by the Commissioner.

(v) Employment and support commitment. The candidate shall submit evidence of having a commitment for three years of employment as a teacher in grades 7 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES, which shall include a mentored experience for the first year that will consist of daily supervision by an experienced teacher during the first 20 days of teaching, except that such mentoring shall not be required if the candidate has two years of satisfactory employment as a teacher of students in grades 5 through 12 in a public or nonpublic school or BOCES.

Attachment B

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH NECESSITATE EMERGENCY ACTION

The proposed amendment to section 80-3.5 is necessary to provide additional pathway options for a Transitional A certification in the CTE subjects for candidates who meet the requirements in one of the following pathway options:

- **Option G.** Have a minimum of two years of experience in the CTE subject area of certificate sought and hold an industry-related credential or pass an industry accepted examination as approved by the Department *and* an offer of employment from a school district
- **Option H.** Are enrolled in an approved CTE teacher preparation program and have either a minimum of one year of related work experience and/or take and pass an industry accepted examination
- **Option I.** Are currently certified 7-12 grade teachers in *any* CTE subject area with two years of documented work experience or who hold industry-recognized credentials, where available, in the related CTE area

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on June 29, 2016. Since the Board of Regents meets at fixed intervals, the earliest the proposed rule can be presented for regular (non-emergency) adoption, after expiration of the required 45-day public comment period provided for in the State Administrative Procedure Act (SAPA), would be the September Regents meeting. Furthermore, pursuant to SAPA section 203(1), the earliest effective date of the proposed rule, if adopted at the September meeting, would be September 28, 2016, the date a Notice of Adoption would be published in the State Register.

Emergency action is therefore necessary to allow those who do not meet the current requirements but who possess industry experience, credentials, or are in the

process of completing certification, but meet one of the three proposed new pathways, to begin teaching at the grade 7-12 level as early as possible during the 2016-2017 school year. Specifically, the New York City school district has expressed concern in filling CTE teaching positions at the secondary level, and this amendment would allow the district to take advantage of this option in hiring for the 2016-17 school year.