



Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*
DATE: March 24, 2009
SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.12.01.07
Resident Teacher Certificate (AMEND)
APPROVAL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this item is to request your approval of proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.07, Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC). The proposed regulatory changes would expand this option for obtaining an initial certificate to individuals through participation in approved alternative preparation programs in certain nonpublic schools. This would further increase the supply of highly qualified teachers consistent with the standards of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2002*.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1991, the Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC) was conceived as a licensure vehicle to be used in conjunction with alternative routes for entry into the teaching profession. Over successive years, nearly 1,200 individuals have held this certificate; significantly, this number has been increasing somewhat exponentially. Since the enactment of *No Child Left Behind* and adoption of Maryland's *Bridge to Excellence*, there has been heightened emphasis on alternative teacher preparation. During the 2007-2008 school year, over 700 candidates were enrolled in Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Programs (MAAPP).

In December 2005, after extended discussion with multiple stakeholders and consideration of recommendations from the Teacher Requirements Study Group, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) adopted changes to the regulation that aligned certification requirements with enrollment in approved alternative programs designed, implemented, and monitored in accordance with guidelines established jointly by the PSTEB and the Maryland State Board of Education (MSBE). This adoption took place after collaborative discussion between the PSTEB and the MSBE through a joint conference committee. Additionally, the changes replaced outdated language with respect to preemployment requirements and added the option of RTC eligibility for a candidate who presents a valid alternative certificate from another state issued pursuant to a program agreed to under the Interstate Certification Agreement.

Members of the State Board of Education
March 24, 2009
Page Two

Recently, interest has emerged from both the nonpublic schools and higher education communities with regard to inclusion of nonpublic schools as participating partners in approved alternative preparation programs. The proposed regulatory changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.07 would provide this constituency with access to a proven and viable alternative for initial certification. At the same time, amended language preserves departmental ability to screen and approve participants by working with entities and organizations that parallel, to some degree, the local school system organizational structure identified in current regulation.

Increasing the supply of highly qualified teachers benefits all Maryland students – in both public and nonpublic schools. Teachers often move between these communities, and expanding the universe of alternative preparation options to nonpublic schools with appropriate accountability creates enhanced opportunities for everyone involved in the teaching profession.

This topic was first presented at the PSTEB meeting on August 7, 2008. Subsequent discussion took place at the October 2, 2008 PSTEB meeting with final consideration at November's meeting. The PSTEB voted to publish the proposed amendment at its meeting on November 6, 2008. Subsequently, you reviewed the proposal at your meeting on December 18, 2008 and determined that a Joint Conference Committee was not necessary prior to publication. A copy of the proposed COMAR amendment as published in the *Maryland Register* on January 30, 2009 is attached. The period for public comment concluded on March 2, 2009; no comments were submitted. The proposed amendment and repeal do not have any economic impact, nor do they have any impact on individuals with disabilities. There is no corresponding federal standard for this proposed action.

SUMMARY

Proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.07, Resident Teacher Certificate, provide expanded alternative teacher preparation program options utilizing the Resident Teacher Certificate to a constituency previously precluded from developing and participating in such opportunities. Expanding the availability of teacher preparation through approved alternative programs provides an additional strategy for the nonpublic schools community to address their respective needs, adds potential for ensuring that the students they serve are taught by highly qualified teachers, and increases the overall teacher supply for Maryland. A copy of the proposed COMAR amendment as published in the *Maryland Register* on January 30, 2009 is attached.

ACTION

I am requesting approval of COMAR 13A.12.01.07, Resident Teacher Certificate, as amended.

NSG:jcs

Attachment

[1] (a) A potential eligible party or a work-based learning coordinator shall submit to the LWIB information concerning the student and the employer on a work-based learning certification form provided by the LWIB.

(b) A copy of [the training] a completed work-based learning agreement shall be attached to the certification form.

(c) The certification form shall include a [certification] verification from the employer of the number of hours the student worked for the employer.

(2) *LWIB Approval.*

(a) The LWIB, or its designee, shall review the certification form and the [training] work-based learning agreement.

(b) The LWIB shall approve the employer as an eligible party for purposes of the tax credit if:

(i) [If the] The LWIB determines that the employer meets the definition of an eligible party under Regulation .02B of this chapter; and

(ii) [If the training] The work-based learning agreement meets the [definition] criteria of a work-based learning program under Regulation .02B of this chapter[.].

(c) [If the] The LWIB shall [certify that the employer is an eligible party for purposes of the tax credit and] forward the certification form and work-based agreement to the Department for authorization.

[B.] C. Authorization by the Department.

(1) Upon receipt of a certification form and work-based training agreement from the LWIB, the Department shall authorize the employer as an eligible party for purposes of the tax credit.

(2) — (3) (text unchanged).

.06 Limitation on Claim of Credit by the Eligible Entity.

A. The tax credit is authorized only for the taxable years beginning on or before December 31, [2000] 2012.

B. — E. (text unchanged)

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools

Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION

13A.12.01 General Provisions

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 2-303(g), and 6-701 — 6-705, Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[09-085-P]

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board proposes to amend Regulation .07 under COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions. This action was considered at the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board meeting on November 6, 2008.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to provide expanded alternative teacher preparation program options utilizing the Resident Teacher Certificate to a constituency previously precluded from developing and participating in such opportunities.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact
The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses
The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities
The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment
Comments may be sent to John Smeallie, Assistant State Superintendent, Certification and Accreditation, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-0385, or email to jsmeallie@msde.state.md.us, or fax to 410-333-8963. Comments will be accepted through March 2, 2009. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Open Meeting
Final action on the proposal will be considered by the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board during a public meeting to be held on April 2, 2009, at 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

.07 Resident Teacher Certificate.

A. — B. (text unchanged)

C. Except as provided in §D of this regulation, an applicant for a Resident Teacher Certificate shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) — (3) (text unchanged)

(4) Present official documentation from the local superintendent of schools, or a Department-recognized head of an organization of nonpublic schools, of completion of standards-based pre-employment training that includes:

(a) — (c) (text unchanged)

D. Instead of meeting the requirements in §C of this regulation, an applicant may present official verification from the local superintendent of schools, or a Department-recognized head of an organization of nonpublic schools, of a valid alternative certificate issued pursuant to an out-of-State program that Maryland accepts under the Interstate Certification Compact.

E. The local superintendent of schools, or a Department-recognized head of an organization of nonpublic schools, shall file a written request with the State Superintendent of Schools for the issuance of the Resident Teacher Certificate after the applicant has met the requirements under §C of this regulation.

F. An applicant who holds the Resident Teacher Certificate shall be eligible for the Standard Professional Certificate upon receipt by the Department of all of the following items:

(1) — (2) (text unchanged)

(3) Satisfactory teaching performance during the period of the residency as verified by the local superintendent of schools or a Department-recognized head of an organization of nonpublic schools.

NANCY S. GRASMICK
State Superintendent of Schools