

CHAPTER 9

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE AND STANDARDS

Authority

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SUBCHAPTER 1. SCOPE AND PURPOSE

6A:9-1.1 Scope

This chapter sets forth the rules governing the preparation, licensure and professional development of those educators required by their positions to be certified. It also contains rules governing the approval of educator preparation programs and the content of such programs. Finally, it contains the rules delineating the organization of, powers of, duties of and proceedings before the State Board of Examiners.

6A:9-1.2 Purpose

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to establish a licensure system based on professional standards for pre-service preparation, certification and professional development that continuously serves to improve the quality of instruction for New Jersey's children so that they are equipped to work and succeed in an ever-changing and increasingly complex global economy.

(b) A standards-based, rigorous system of licensure, designed to support improved student achievement of the Core Curriculum Content Standards will serve to improve the quality of the New Jersey educator workforce and to improve student performance.

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

6A:9-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Accreditation" means an institution that has a professional education unit and has completed successfully a review process by a national professional organization recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation and approved by the Commissioner. The institution must meet State, professional and institutional standards as determined by a review of its individual programs and overall capacity to prepare education professionals. This review is substantiated

requirements in (a)2 above. Upon application, the candidate shall provide the Office with an original registrar's letter from the college or university bearing the college or university seal and clarifying the institution's policy regarding GPAs. The candidate shall satisfy all other requirements for certification, without exception.

Amended by R.2004 d.416, effective November 1, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3237(a), 36 N.J.R. 4927(b).

Added (j) and (k).

Amended by R.2005 d.110, effective April 4, 2005.

See: 36 N.J.R. 5044(a), 37 N.J.R. 1060(a).

Rewrote (g).

Amended by R.2006 d.170, effective May 15, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4612(a), 38 N.J.R. 2126(a).

Recodified (d)-(g) as (e)-(h) and (h)-(k) as (j)-(m); added (d); in (f), substituted "preschool through grade three pedagogy" for "formal instruction"; in (g)2, substituted "early childhood" and "early childhood education" for "preschool"; added (i); in (k), added "at N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1(a)1, 3 and 4 and 8.3(b)4" at the end; in (m), deleted "on or after September 1, 2004" following "A candidate who graduates"; and added (n).

6A:9-11.2 Vocational-technical education certification requirements

(a) Vocational-technical education may be offered in program areas represented by the career clusters recognized nationally and by the Department that currently are:

1. Agriculture, food and natural resources;
2. Architecture and construction;
3. Arts, audio/video technology and communications;
4. Business, management and administrative services;
5. Education and training;
6. Finance;
7. Government and public administration;
8. Health science;
9. Hospitality and tourism;
10. Human services;
11. Information technology;
12. Law, public safety and security;
13. Manufacturing;
14. Marketing, sales and service;
15. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
and
16. Transportation.

(b) As new technologies and occupations develop, school districts may submit requests for an endorsement under the appropriate career cluster.

(c) Candidates for vocational-technical instructional endorsements must complete the requirements in this subsection.

1. To be eligible for the CE, the candidate shall:

i. For experienced-based endorsements, possess a professional license or a recognized industry certificate in the field, or a college degree in the field, or a journeyman certificate in the field; or a Military Discharge certificate (DD-214) indicating military qualifications and occupational training received in order to determine the extent of credit to be applied toward certification in the occupational area or a minimum of four years of industry experience directly related to the instructional program. The work experience must be acquired within 10 years of the certification application. The employing district shall approve the work experience pursuant to criteria and procedures established by the Department. Candidates who have not yet been offered employment can have occupational experience evaluated through one of the Department-approved work evaluation centers in accord with (f) below. Each approval shall be filed with the Office and the county office of education. Candidates shall pass an examination in physiology, hygiene and substance abuse issues pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.9. Candidates who do not hold a bachelor's degree shall pass a State-adopted test of basic reading, writing and mathematics skills; or

ii. For degree-based endorsements, possess a bachelor's or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university with a coherent sequence of courses in the occupational field, meet the required GPA pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1, pass the required State test, and pass an examination in physiology, hygiene and substance abuse issues pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.9. The Office staff will determine whether the applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria.

2. To be eligible for the CEAS, the candidate shall:

i. Meet the requirements in (c)1i or ii above; and

ii. Complete a State-approved college teacher preparation program that culminates in student teaching.

3. To be eligible for the provisional certificate, the candidate shall:

i. Hold a CE or CEAS in the endorsement area required for the teaching assignment; and

ii. Obtain and accept an offer of employment in a position that requires the relevant vocational endorsement.

4. While teaching under the provisional certificate, the candidate shall participate in a State-approved district training program. The State-approved district training program shall comply with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3.

5. To be eligible for the standard certificate, the candidate shall:

i. Possess a provisional certificate pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.2 and complete a State-approved training program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3 and 8.4; or

ii. Complete a State-approved college teacher preparation program in another state, satisfy the relevant New Jersey test requirement and have a minimum of one year of successful teaching experience under a valid out-of-State certificate/license.

(d) Holders of standard instructional certificates with other endorsements, except as indicated in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-11.1 and 11.7, may obtain a vocational-technical endorsement upon completion of the experience requirement or the academic major and test requirement.

(e) Holders of vocational-technical instructional endorsements issued prior to January 20, 2004 remain valid. These teachers are authorized to teach in the occupations for which they hold endorsements. A crosswalk of these former certificates that identifies under which of the new career clusters the teacher's certificate falls is available from the Office.

(f) The Department shall approve regional centers to evaluate occupational experience for candidates who have not been offered employment by a district.

(g) A candidate who graduates on or after September 1, 2004 with a GPA that is below 2.75, but at least 2.50 when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade, and whose score in the appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge exceeds the passing score by 10 percent or more will meet the requirements of (c)1ii above. This alternative requirement to (c)1ii above should not be construed as a waiver to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.16.

(h) A candidate who graduates with a GPA that is 3.50 or higher, when a GPA of 4.00 equals an A grade, but whose score in the appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge falls below the passing score by no more than five percent will meet the requirements of (c)1ii above. This alternative requirement to (c)1ii above should not be construed as a waiver to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-17.16.

(i) A candidate who has graduated from a regionally accredited college or university that does not award grades and does not calculate GPAs shall be exempt from the requirements in (a)2 above. Upon application, the candidate shall provide the Office with an original registrar's letter from the college or university bearing the college or university seal and clarifying the institution's policy regarding GPAs. The candidate shall satisfy all other requirements for certification, without exception.

Amended by R.2004 d.416, effective November 1, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 3237(a), 36 N.J.R. 4927(b).

Added (g) and (h).
Amended by R.2006 d.170, effective May 15, 2006.
See: 37 N.J.R. 4612(a), 38 N.J.R. 2126(a).

Deleted "on or after September 1, 2004" following "graduates" in (h); and added (i).

6A:9-11.3 Special education

(a) The following are special education endorsements and authorizations:

1. Teacher of students with disabilities: This endorsement authorizes teaching students with disabilities.

2. Teacher of the blind or visually impaired: This endorsement authorizes teaching blind or visually impaired students.

3. Teacher of the deaf or hard of hearing for oral/aural communication: This endorsement authorizes teaching deaf or hard of hearing students using oral/aural communication strategies.

4. Teacher of the deaf or hard of hearing for sign language communication: This endorsement authorizes teaching deaf or hard of hearing students using sign language communication strategies.

5. Holders of special education endorsements as set forth in (a)1 through 4 above also may provide consultative services and supportive resource programs, including supplemental instruction, modification and adaptation of curriculum and instruction to students with disabilities in general education programs in grades preschool through 12.

(b) To be eligible for a CE in special education, the candidate shall:

1. Possess or be eligible for a standard or provisional New Jersey instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught;

2. Complete six semester-hour credits in special education chosen from the topics listed in (e)2, (f)2, (g)2 or (h)2 below as appropriate to the endorsement sought. The candidate shall complete the required study at a regionally accredited four year college or university approved for teacher education pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.12 or through a Department-approved provider; and

3. For the deaf or hard of hearing for sign language communication endorsement, achieve an intermediate or higher score on the Sign Communication Proficiency Interview (SCPI).

(c) To be eligible for the CEAS in special education, the candidate who has met the requirements in (b)1 above shall complete one of the programs of teacher preparation set forth in (c)1 through 5 below. In addition to the CEAS in special education, candidates for the deaf or hard of hearing with sign language communication endorsement must achieve an intermediate or higher score on the SCPI.

1. A New Jersey program, graduate or undergraduate, approved by the Department for the preparation of special education teachers as identified in N.J.A.C. 6A:9-10;

2. A special education college preparation program included in the interstate certification reciprocity system of NASDTEC;

3. An out-of-State special education teacher education program approved by NCATE;

4. A special education teacher education program approved for certification by the state department of education in one of the states party to the NASDTEC Interstate Contract, provided the program was completed on or after January 1, 1964 and the state in which the program is located would issue the candidate a comparable certificate; or

5. An out-of-State special education teacher preparation program approved by the state department of education in which the program is located.

(d) For issuance of a provisional certificate a candidate must:

1. Hold a CE or CEAS in the special education endorsement area and the instructional endorsement required for the teaching assignment; and

2. Obtain and accept an offer of employment in a position that requires special education certification.

(e) Except as provided in (f), (g) and (h) below, while teaching under a provisional certificate with a Students with Disabilities endorsement, the candidate shall complete:

1. An approved district training program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3 and 8.4; and

2. A Department-approved program at a college or university that includes a range of 21 to 27 credit hours of formal instruction in the following topics:

- i. Philosophical, historical and legal foundations of special education;
- ii. Characteristics of students with disabilities;
- iii. Standardized and functional assessment;
- iv. Strategies for the development of literacy;
- v. Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications and materials for students with disabilities;
- vi. Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;
- vii. Assistive technology; and
- viii. Transition planning, program development and agencies available for students with disabilities.

(f) While teaching under a provisional certificate with a Blind or Visually Impaired endorsement, the candidate shall complete:

1. An approved district training program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3 and 8.4; and

2. A Department-approved program at a college or university that includes a range of 21 to 27 credit hours of formal instruction in the following topics:

- i. Philosophical, historical and legal issues in the education of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- ii. Anatomy, physiology and characteristics of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- iii. Standardized and functional assessment of students who are blind/visually impaired;
- iv. Strategies and materials for developing literacy and numeracy skills in students who are blind or visually impaired including Braille and Nemeth codes;
- v. Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications and materials for students who are blind/visually impaired;
- vi. Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;
- vii. Assistive technology and augmentative communication systems for students who are blind or visually impaired;
- viii. Orientation and mobility concepts and techniques; and
- ix. Transition planning, program services and agencies available for students who are blind/visually impaired.

(g) While teaching under a provisional certificate with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing with oral/aural communication endorsement, the candidate shall complete:

1. An approved district training program pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3 and 8.4; and

2. A Department approved program at a college or university that includes a range of 21 to 27 credit hours of formal instruction in the following topics:

- i. Philosophical, historical and legal issues in the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;
- ii. Characteristics of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;
- iii. Standardized and functional assessment of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;
- iv. Strategies for the development of language and literacy of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

v. Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications and materials for students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

vi. Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;

vii. Speech, applied audiology, assistive listening devices and assistive technology;

viii. American Sign Language, deaf culture and communication philosophies; and

ix. Transition planning, program services and agencies available for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

(h) While teaching under a provisional certificate with a Deaf or Hard of Hearing with sign language communication endorsement, the candidate shall complete:

1. An approved district training program pursuant to 6A:9-8.3 and 8.4; and

2. A Department approved program at a college or university that includes a range of 21 to 27 credit hours of formal instruction in the following topics:

i. Philosophical, historical and legal issues in the education of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

ii. Characteristics of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

iii. Standardized and functional assessment of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

iv. Strategies for the development of language and literacy of students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

v. Curriculum planning, learning environments, modifications, and materials for students who are deaf/hard of hearing;

vi. Inclusive education practices, positive behavioral supports, communication and collaborative partnerships;

vii. Speech, applied audiology, assistive listening devices, and assistive technology;

viii. American Sign Language, deaf culture and communication philosophies; and

ix. Transition planning, program services and agencies available for students who are deaf/hard of hearing.

(i) Holders of a CEAS in special education pursuant to (c) above are not required to complete (e)2, (f)2, (g)2 or (h)2 above.

(j) Holders of a CEAS in Students with Disabilities are not required to complete (e)2 above. Holders of a CEAS in Blind or Partially Sighted are not required to complete (f)2 or above. Holders of a CEAS in Deaf or Hard of Hearing with

oral/aural communication are not required to complete (g)2 above. Holders of a CEAS in Deaf or Hard of Hearing with sign language communication are not required to complete (h)2 above.

(k) No person shall be employed under provisional certification for more than four years in a position requiring certification as a special education teacher.

(l) The special education pedagogy shall be completed at a regionally accredited four-year college or university.

(m) To be eligible for the standard certificate with an endorsement in special education, the candidate shall:

1. Possess a provisional certificate pursuant to (d) above, complete a State-approved training program pursuant to (e), (f), (g) or (h) above while employed provisionally in a position requiring the relevant special education endorsement and hold a standard New Jersey instructional certificate; or

2. Complete a State-approved college special education preparation program in another state, complete the New Jersey test requirement, have a minimum of one year of successful teaching experience under a valid out-of-State certificate/license, and hold a New Jersey instructional endorsement.

(n) With the exception of military science and experience-based vocational endorsements, candidates who hold a standard New Jersey instructional certificate shall be issued the appropriate standard special education endorsement upon completion of a Department-approved college special education program. Holders of the military science and experience-based vocational endorsements shall complete all the requirements in (b) above and a Department-approved special education program to be eligible for a standard special education endorsement. Holders of the standard preschool through grade three endorsements shall be issued the appropriate standard special education endorsement upon completion of a Department-approved college special education program.

(o) Holders of standard certificates with special education endorsements shall be issued additional instructional certificates when they meet the requirements for a CE pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1(a).

(p) Those individuals currently teaching in the field of special education under emergency certification may continue to do so until August 31, 2006.

(q) Candidates in possession of a written evaluation completed by the Office prior to January 20, 2004 will have until August 31, 2006 to complete the requirements set forth in the written evaluation.

(r) A candidate who matriculated and enrolled in classes in a special education teacher preparation program that meets the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 6:11, as effective prior