

CHAPTER 251

AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:26-36 Restriction, semester-hour credits, educator preparation program, accredited county college, meeting teacher certification requirements, prohibited; definition.

1. a. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program shall not restrict the number of semester-hour credits of professional education coursework completed at an accredited county college that may be accepted toward meeting the requirements for teacher certification, except as may be otherwise required by the program's accrediting organization.

b. As used in this section, "professional education coursework" means coursework required to obtain teacher certification, including courses in child development, language development, curriculum development, and methods of instruction.

C.18A:26-37 State Board of Education, regulation, policy restricting semester-hour credits, accredited county college, meeting teacher certification requirements, prohibited; definition.

2. a. The State Board of Education shall not adopt any regulation or policy which restricts the number of semester-hour credits of professional education coursework completed at an accredited county college that may be accepted toward meeting the requirements for teacher certification, provided that the credits are accepted by a Commissioner-approved educator preparation program.

b. As used in this section, "professional education coursework" means coursework required to obtain teacher certification, including courses in child development, language development, curriculum development, and methods of instruction.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 8, 2024.