

# ASSEMBLY, No. 4594

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 25, 2020

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman ANNETTE QUIJANO**

**District 20 (Union)**

**Assemblywoman PAMELA R. LAMPITT**

**District 6 (Burlington and Camden)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Johnson**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires State Board of Education to establish procedures for issuance of limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and limited certificate of eligibility for certain teacher candidates.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/10/2020)**

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter  
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. As used in this act:

8 “Limited certificate of eligibility” means a certificate issued by  
9 the State Board of Examiners to candidates who meet the criteria  
10 established pursuant to section 3 of this act.

11 “Limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” means  
12 a certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners to candidates  
13 who meet the criteria established pursuant to section 2 of this act  
14 and complete a State-approved college professional educator  
15 preparation program.

16

17 2. a. No later than six months following the date of enactment,  
18 the State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a  
19 limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing to a teacher  
20 candidate who meets all other eligibility requirements for a  
21 certificate of eligibility with advanced standing, except any one of  
22 the following:

23 (1) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other  
24 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions; or

25 (2) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an  
26 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other  
27 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score  
28 on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

29 b. The limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing  
30 authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall only be  
31 used for employment in a school district, charter school, or  
32 renaissance school approved to hire individuals who hold the  
33 certificate pursuant to section 4 of this act.

34

35 3. a. No later than six months following the date of enactment,  
36 the State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of a  
37 limited certificate of eligibility to a teacher candidate who meets all  
38 other eligibility requirements to receive a certificate of eligibility,  
39 except any one of the following:

40 (1) the requirement to complete a minimum number of subject  
41 area course credits and all other related alternative requirements or  
42 exceptions, except that a candidate applying for a limited certificate  
43 of eligibility shall hold a bachelor’s degree at a minimum;

44 (2) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other  
45 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions;

46 (3) the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a  
47 Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing,

1 and mathematical skills and all other alternative basic skills  
2 requirements or exceptions; or

3 (4) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an  
4 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other  
5 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score  
6 on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

7 b. The limited certificate of eligibility authorized pursuant to  
8 subsection a. of this section shall only be used for employment in a  
9 school district, charter school, or renaissance school approved to  
10 hire individuals who hold the certificate pursuant to section 4 of this  
11 act.

12

13 4. a. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
14 seeking to hire individuals who are issued limited certificates of  
15 eligibility with advanced standing or limited certificates of  
16 eligibility shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education to  
17 do so. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school shall  
18 apply to the commissioner in a manner and form to be prescribed by  
19 the commissioner. To be considered for approval to hire  
20 individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility with  
21 advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility, an applicant  
22 shall demonstrate a sufficient capability to provide support to new  
23 teachers and:

24 (1) a demographic disparity between the district's or school's  
25 student population and teachers; or

26 (2) a shortage of bilingual education teachers; or

27 (3) a critical need to fill teacher vacancies or a hardship caused  
28 by teacher vacancies.

29 b. During the first year of implementation of this act, the  
30 commissioner shall approve no less than 10 school districts, charter  
31 schools, or renaissance schools to hire individuals who hold limited  
32 certificates of eligibility with advanced standing or limited  
33 certificates of eligibility.

34 c. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
35 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of  
36 eligibility with advanced standing or limited certificates of  
37 eligibility shall only hire up to 10 percent of its total teachers  
38 pursuant to this act.

39 d. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
40 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of  
41 eligibility with advanced standing or limited certificates of  
42 eligibility shall annually submit a report to the commissioner  
43 evaluating the impact of hiring such individuals. The report shall  
44 contain the following information:

45 (1) the number of teachers who were issued a limited certificate  
46 of eligibility with advanced standing or a limited certificate of  
47 eligibility;

1 (2) the subject areas in which the individuals teach and the  
2 courses they teach;

3 (3) how the hiring of individuals who were issued the limited  
4 certificates has impacted the district's or school's demographic  
5 disparity between its student population and teachers as well as the  
6 effect the hiring of those individuals has had on the district's or  
7 school's ability to fill teacher vacancies;

8 (4) student achievement data for students taught by the teachers  
9 who were issued the limited certificates, as determined by the  
10 commissioner; and

11 (5) any other information the commissioner deems necessary.

12 e. The commissioner shall annually submit to the State Board  
13 of Education a report summarizing the information submitted by  
14 school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools pursuant to  
15 subsection d. of this section.

16

17 5. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or  
18 regulation related to the evaluation of a provisional teacher for a  
19 standard instructional certificate to the contrary, an individual who  
20 is issued a limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing  
21 pursuant to section 2 of this act or a limited certificate of eligibility  
22 pursuant to section 3 of this act, is hired by a school district, charter  
23 school, or renaissance school approved to hire such an individual  
24 pursuant to section 4 of this act, and is teaching in the district or  
25 school under a provisional instructional certificate, shall earn a  
26 standard instructional certificate after two evaluations in which the  
27 individual scores effective or highly effective. The individual shall  
28 earn the two evaluations of effective or highly effective within four  
29 years of being issued a limited certificate of eligibility with  
30 advanced standing or a limited certificate of eligibility. This  
31 requirement shall be in addition to all other requirements for a  
32 standard instructional certificate established pursuant to State Board  
33 of Education regulations.

34

35 6. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and  
36 regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act,"  
37 P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the  
38 purposes of this act.

39

40 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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#### STATEMENT

44

45 Under current State Board of Education regulations, a candidate  
46 applying to become a teacher may be issued a certificate of  
47 eligibility with advanced standing (CEAS) under the traditional  
48 route to teacher certification or a certificate of eligibility (CE) under

1 the alternate route to teacher certification. The CEAS and CE,  
2 issued by the State Board of Examiners, authorize an individual to  
3 seek and accept employment as a teacher in New Jersey public  
4 schools.

5 The requirements for an individual to be issued a CEAS can be  
6 found in current State Board of Education regulations at  
7 N.J.A.C.6A:9B-8.2. In general, an individual is eligible to be  
8 issued a CEAS if the individual: holds a bachelor's or advanced  
9 degree; completed a State Department of Education-approved  
10 CEAS educator preparation program; is recommended for State  
11 licensure by the CEAS educator preparation program; graduated  
12 with at least a 3.00 grade point average (GPA), with certain  
13 exceptions; earned a subject-specific endorsement by completing a  
14 certain number of subject area courses; and passed a test of subject  
15 matter knowledge, currently the Praxis II.

16 The requirements for an individual to be issued a CE can be  
17 found in current State Board of Education regulations at  
18 N.J.A.C.6A:9B-8.3. In general, a teacher candidate may be issued a  
19 CE if the individual: holds a bachelor's or advanced degree;  
20 graduated with at least a 3.00 GPA, with certain exceptions; passed  
21 the appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge; completes  
22 certain required subject matter course requirements; and, with  
23 certain exceptions, passes a test of basic skills, currently the Praxis  
24 Core.

25 This bill would create a limited CEAS and a limited CE for  
26 individuals who may not meet one of the general requirements for a  
27 CEAS or CE and who are seeking employment in a school district,  
28 charter school, or renaissance school after the effective date of the  
29 bill. Individuals would be eligible for a limited CEAS if they do  
30 not meet one of the following requirements: the minimum GPA  
31 requirement, and all other alternative grade point average  
32 requirements and exceptions; or the requirement to achieve a  
33 minimum passing score on an appropriate State test of subject  
34 matter knowledge (Praxis II) and any related alternative  
35 requirements or exceptions. Individuals would be eligible for a  
36 limited CE if they do not meet one of the following requirements:  
37 any requirement to complete a minimum number of subject area  
38 course credits; the minimum GPA requirement; the requirement to  
39 achieve a minimum score on a Commissioner of Education-  
40 approved test of basic reading, writing, and mathematical skills  
41 (Praxis Core) and all other alternative basic skills requirements or  
42 exceptions; or the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score  
43 on an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

44 An individual who holds a limited CEAS or limited CE would  
45 only be eligible to be hired at certain school districts, charter  
46 schools, and renaissance schools that are required to be approved by  
47 the Commissioner of Education in order to be permitted to hire such  
48 individuals. A district or school seeking to be approved to hire

1 individuals holding the limited certificates must apply to the  
2 commissioner. An applicant must demonstrate a sufficient  
3 capability to provide support to new teachers and: a demographic  
4 disparity between the district's or school's student population and  
5 teaching staff; or a shortage of bilingual education teachers; or a  
6 critical need to fill teacher vacancies or hardship caused by teacher  
7 vacancies.

8 An individual who is issued a limited CEAS or a limited CE, is  
9 hired by a school district, charter school, or renaissance school  
10 approved to hire such an individual, and is teaching in the district or  
11 school under a provisional instructional certificate, will earn a  
12 standard instructional certificate after two evaluations in which the  
13 individual scores effective or highly effective. The individual must  
14 earn the two evaluations of effective or highly effective within four  
15 years of being issued a limited certificate. This would differ from  
16 current regulations regarding provisional teacher evaluations, which  
17 generally require that a provisional teacher receive at least two  
18 years of effective ratings over a consecutive three-year period. This  
19 requirement will be in addition to all other requirements for a  
20 standard instructional certificate established pursuant to State Board  
21 of Education regulations.