

SENATE, No. 2826

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED AUGUST 17, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

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District 31 (Hudson)

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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: 1/28/2021)

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.

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40 7. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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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.