MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Preparing World-Class Students

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed. D.

DATE: June 26, 2012

SUBJECT: Proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.02, Definitions; 13A.12.01.06E, Advanced Professional Certificate, and 13A.12.01.11, Renewal
AMEND
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present proposed changes to the regulations associated with the issuance of the Advanced Professional Certificate and to request permission to publish the proposed changes.

BACKGROUND:

At your March 27, 2012 meeting, staff presented proposed changes to COMAR13A.12.01, General Provisions. The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) recognized that you might not agree with the proposed changes, particularly regarding the Advanced Professional Certificate, and requested the option to convene a Joint Conference Committee.

A Joint Conference Committee was convened on April 5, 2012; consensus was attained on exploring the option of a pathway independent of coursework to obtain the initial Advanced Professional Certificate. This outcome of the Joint Conference Committee was presented to the PSTEB members that same day during a teleconference meeting, and then discussed again at length at subsequent meetings on May 3 and June 7, 2012. The PSTEB agreed to continue their discussion at its August meeting.

The President of the Maryland State Board of Education, Mr. James DeGraffenreidt, attended the June PSTEB meeting. Following the meeting, Mr. DeGraffenreidt directed staff to draft proposed changes to the Advanced Professional Certificate.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As a result of the Joint Conference Committee, the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board agreed on exploring a fourth option for issuance of the Advanced Professional Certificate which is independent of course work. This topic was discussed at the April, May, and June PSTEB meetings and will also be discussed at the August meeting. Staff provided a progress report in May to the State Board regarding the PSTEB discussions. Following the June PSTEB meeting, staff was directed to move forward with drafting the proposed regulatory changes to provide another option for obtaining the initial Advanced Professional Certificate independent of course work and linked to student performance.

ACTION:

Request "Permission to Publish" amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.02 Definitions, 13A.12.01.06E Advanced Professional Certificate, and 13A.12.01.11 Renewal.

BJS: jes

Attachment

ATTACHMENT 1

Title 13A STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION

Chapter 01 General Provisions

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 2-303(g), *6-202* and 6-701—6-705; Family Law Article, §10-119.3; Annotated Code of Maryland

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.02 Definitions.

A. [Text unchanged.]

B.(1) [Text unchanged.]

(2) "Accredited" has the meaning stated in §B[(17)]*(19)* of this regulation.

(3)-(12) [Text unchanged]

(13) "Equivalent credit" means Department-approved professional growth activities designed by the local school system.

[(13)] *(14)* "Essential dimensions of teaching" means outcomes consistent with national standards and identified by the State Board of Education for approval of Maryland teacher education programs under Regulation .04B of this chapter.

[(14)] *(15)* "Full-time teaching experience" means a period of not less than 9 consecutive months as the responsible teacher in a classroom pursuant to an appointment requiring service for 50 percent or more of the school week or the equivalent.

[(15)] *(16)* "Higher degree" means a degree earned that is higher than a bachelor's degree such as a Ph.D., Ed.D., Ed.S., Master's degree, J.D., M.D., D.D.M., D.D.S. or L.L.M.

(17) "Highly effective teaching" means receiving a highly effective rating under the Local Education Agency Evaluation System or the Model State Performance Evaluation Criteria in accordance with COMAR 13A.07.09.

[(16)] *(18)* "Historic Maryland Certificate" means a previously issued certificate for which a certification area no longer exists.

[(17)] *(19)* "Institution of higher education (IHE)" means an accredited college or university that meets one of the following standards:

(a)-(c) [Text unchanged]

[(18)] *(20)* "Interstate Certification Compact (ICC)" means a legal agreement with other states to facilitate the certification of out-of-State teachers and other professional educational personnel as authorized by Education Article, Title 6, Subtitle 6, Annotated Code of Maryland, or as otherwise provided by law.

[(19)] *(21)* "Local school system" means a Maryland public school system, a State-operated school, or an accredited nonpublic school.

[(20)] *(22)* "Long-term substitute experience" means full-time, continuous substitute teaching service rendered in the same classroom for not less than 3 months.

[(21)] *(23)* "Mentor" means an individual who possesses the attributes set forth in COMAR 13A.07.01.03.

[(22)] *(24)* "National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)" means a council providing accreditation of professional education units in United States colleges that prepare professional educators to staff PreK—12 schools for children.

[(23)] *(25)* "Occupational experience" means experience gained while employed performing the trade to be taught.

[(24)] *(26)* "Out-of-area assignment" means assignment of a certificated teacher to teach in a subject area other than in the area in which certificated.

[(25)] *(27)* "Professional certificate" means a Standard Professional Certificate or an Advanced Professional Certificate.

[(26)] *(28)* "Professional development plan" means a plan [to describe the employee's continued professional growth.] *collaboratively designed by the certificate holder and his or her supervisor or designee, which describes the certificate holder's continued professional growth, including specified needs, strengths and interests.*

[(27)] *(29)* "Professional education course work" means course work dealing with the knowledge and process of teaching to prepare to become a teacher, as differentiated from content course work.

[(28)] *(30)* "Regular contract" means a contract signed by a teacher under COMAR 13A.07.02.01B.

[(29)] *(31)* Required Grade.

(a) – (b) [Text unchanged]

[(30)] *(32)* "Resident Teacher Certificate" means a certificate issued to an applicant holding a bachelor's or higher degree from an IHE but not meeting professional requirements for the Standard Professional Certificate. For specific requirements, see Regulation .07 of this chapter.

[(31)] *(33)* "Satisfactory school-related experience" means professional, full-time experience as a teacher, specialist, administrator, or supervisor in a public school or accredited nonpublic school for which the annual overall evaluation rating is satisfactory or better.

[(32)] *(34)* "School" means a public school or an accredited nonpublic school.

[(33)] *(35)* "Semester hours" means credit hours earned at an IHE within a semester system of scheduling, and are required unless a regulation in this subtitle states that CPDs may be used.

[(34)] *(36)* "Specific certification area" means a:

(a) – (c) [Text unchanged]

[(35)] *(37)* "Supervised experience" means an internship, practicum, or student teaching provided by an IHE.

[(36)] *(38)* "Teacher certification tests" means the tests offered nationally in basic skills, required content or subject matter, and pedagogy that have been validated according to generally accepted professional standards and approved by the State Board of Education, a list of which is maintained in the Division of Certification of the Department.

[(37)] *(39)* "Teaching experience" means one of the following experiences in the certification area in a school at the appropriate age or grade level for which the applicant is seeking certification:

(a) – (c) [Text unchanged]

[(38)] *(40)* "Transcript analysis" means a review used to determine the appropriateness of course work or other experiences in the certification area sought by the applicant.

.06 Professional Certificates.

A – D. [Text unchanged.]

E. Advanced Professional Certificate.

(1) An Advanced Professional Certificate shall be issued to an applicant who:

(a) Meets all standards under Regulation .05 of this chapter;

(1) An Advanced Professional Certificate shall be issued to an applicant who:

(a) Meets all standards under Regulation .05 of this chapter;

(b) [Presents] *Submits* 6 semester hours of acceptable credit as set forth in §.05C of this chapter; and

[(c) Presents verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related experience;] and

[(d)] *(c)* Meets one of the following standards:

(i) Earned a master's or higher degree from an IHE in a certification area directly related to public school education, including 6 semester hours related to the [teacher's] *applicant's* specific discipline or [the specialist's specific] *job* assignment, *and verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related experience;*

(ii) Earned at least 36 semester hours of approved content or professional education course work directly related to public school education, earned after the conferral of the bachelor's or higher degree, including at least 21 graduate credits, of which at least six credits shall be related to the [teacher's] *applicant's* specific discipline or [the specialist's specific] *job* assignment, *and verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related experience;* [or]

(iii) Obtained National Board Certification and earned a minimum of 12 semester hours of approved graduate course work[, earned after the conferral of the bachelor's or higher degree and] related to the [teacher's] *applicant's* specific discipline or [the specialist's specific] *job* assignment, *and verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related experience; or*

(iv) Submits evidence of highly effective teaching for a minimum of 3 of the last 5 years immediately preceding the issuance of the initial Advanced Professional Certificate.

(2) - (3) [Text unchanged.]

.11 Renewal of Certificates.

A. [Text unchanged.]

B. (1)-(4) [Text unchanged.]

(5) The Advanced Professional Certificate shall be renewed for 5 years if an applicant [is] *submits:*

(a) [Continuously employed as a professional in a Maryland school during the validity period of the certificate upon the request of the local superintendent of schools and upon presenting all of the following:]

[(i)] A professional development plan for the subsequent Advanced Professional Certificate [designed by the employee and reviewed by the local superintendent of schools] that includes at least 6 semester hours of acceptable credit *or equivalent credit* under Regulation .05C of this chapter and §A(5) of this regulation, [or the equivalent once the required semester hours of reading course work are completed] *and verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related*

experience immediately preceding the issuance of the renewed Advanced Professional Certificate; or

[(ii) 6 semester hours of acceptable credit under Regulation .05C of this chapter and §A(5) of this regulation, or verification by the local superintendent of schools that the employee has earned the equivalent of 6 semester hours of credit in professional growth activities during the validity period of the current certificate once the required semester hours of reading course work are completed; and]

[(iii) Verification of 3 years of satisfactory school-related experience completed within the 5 years immediately preceding the issuance of the renewed Advanced Professional Certificate;]

[(b) Not continuously employed as a professional in a Maryland school during the validity period of the certificate, upon the request of the applicant and upon the applicant presenting 6 semester hours of acceptable credit under Regulation .05C of this chapter and §A(5) of this regulation.]

(b) A professional development plan for the subsequent Advanced Professional Certificate and evidence of highly effective teaching for a minimum of 3 years within the 5 years immediately preceding the issuance of the renewed Advanced Professional Certificate.

C.–D. [Text unchanged.]