




Nancy S. Grasmick
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick 

DATE: April 26, 2011

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.12.02.27, Specialized Professional Areas (Grades 7-12)
(NEW)
PERMISSION TO PUBLISH

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this item is to present a new regulation, 13A.12.02.27, Specialized Professional Areas (Grades 7-12), for proposed publication and to provide an option to convene a Joint Conference Committee should you so desire.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At the February 3, 2011 meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB), staff presented the Final Report of the Career Professional Certification Work Group. This Work Group was formed in response to the provisions established in Senate Bill 412, enacted in the 2010 General Assembly.

The Work Group met monthly from August through December, 2010 and discussed multiple issues relevant to the legislative provisions. The Final Report proposed eight recommendations:

- Any proposed regulation should be for grades 7-12 since these specialized professionals would be employed only in secondary schools;
- There should be four options for obtaining professional certification which parallel the current degree requirements for certification in Trades & Industry;
- Include twelve (12) semester hours of professional education course work, with college/university or Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credits to include topics such as planning and delivery of instruction, managing the instructional environment, assessing instruction, diversifying instruction to accommodate special needs, and teaching reading in the content area;
- Require verification of five years of career, professional experience in the area to be taught;
- Accept Department-recognized professional certifications to be used in lieu of two years of professional experience;
- Maintain a list of specialized areas in the Department;
- Issue the certificate only at the request of the local school superintendent; and
- Limit the holder of this certificate to teach only in specialized programs or schools with specialized programs.

Members of the State Board of Education

April 26, 2011

Page 2

In March, 2011 the PSTEB directed staff to draft a regulation incorporating the recommendations of the Work Group. Staff presented the attached regulation to the PSTEB at its April 7, 2011 meeting and the PSTEB voted to publish the proposed regulation.

SUMMARY:

The Final Report of the Work Group enumerated eight recommendations to be included in the development of a proposed regulation. This proposed regulation addresses the eight recommendations and will provide this specialized group of individuals who possess unique career skill sets to enter the teaching profession.

ACTION:

This item is presented for information and to provide the opportunity for you to request a Joint Conference Committee with the PSTEB prior to publication if you so desire.

NSG: jhe

Attachment

ATTACHMENT

.27 Specialized Professional Areas (Grades 7-12).

A. To receive certification in specialized professional areas (grades 7-12), the applicant shall

1. Earn a secondary school diploma /high school equivalency,
2. Present official verification of 5 years of satisfactory career professional experience in the area to be taught; and
3. Meet the professional education coursework as required in §B2 of this regulation.

B. Professional Education Courses.

1. The applicant for specialized professional areas shall complete the professional education course work, as provided in §B2 of this regulation, from an IHE or through Department-approved Continuing Professional Development credits.

2. The professional education course work shall include the following topics:

- (a) lesson planning and delivery of instruction;
- (b) assessing instruction;
- (c) diversifying instruction to accommodate special needs;
- (d) managing the instructional environment; and
- (e) providing literacy instruction relevant to the specialized professional area.

C. Special Provisions

1. Department-recognized specialized certifications from appropriate professional organizations may be used in lieu of 2 years of career professional experience.
2. This certification is not transferable to corresponding disciplines in a comprehensive school.
3. A list of specialized professional areas and approved professional organizations will be maintained by the Department.