

APPENDIX A

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING EDUCATOR LICENSURE AND PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL AND LICENSURE RENEWAL

A. LICENSURE:

This section outlines the proposal to amend the regulations to prepare for, qualify for, or advance a license to the next stage. We begin with the licenses the vast majority of Massachusetts educators earn and hold, Initial and Professional. We then address the two optional licensure categories, Preliminary and Temporary, which afford alternate paths to employment while educators pursue earning an Initial License.

Initial license: Massachusetts educators committed to a career in public education must earn at least one Initial level license early in their career¹; this license is valid for 5 years of employment. The proposed SEI related requirements will impact the three major paths to an Initial License as follows:

- Most Initial Licenses are awarded to candidates who have successfully completed an approved Massachusetts educator preparation program and earned qualifying scores on the MTEL examinations required for their license. Candidates for an Initial License as a core academic teacher as defined in 603 CMR 7.02 (7.02, p.1) who qualify for the Initial License on or after July 1, 2014 (7.15(14)(d), p.17) must meet the knowledge requirements (Appendix A and 7.14, “Endorsements” on p.11 of the attached regulations) and professional standards (App. B and 7.08, p.6 for teachers and 7.10, for administrators) for the SEI Teacher or Administrator Endorsement as part of their preparation.²
- Candidates advancing from a Preliminary License (paragraph 3, below) or a Temporary License (paragraph 4, below) on or after July 1, 2014 (7.14, p.17) must meet the knowledge requirements (App. A and 7.15(14)(d), p.11) and professional standards (App. B and 7.08, p.6) for the SEI Teachers Endorsement as part of their preparation for the Initial License.

Professional license: MA educators committed to a career in public education will eventually earn a Professional level license; this license is valid for 5 calendar years and must then be renewed. The proposed ELL-related requirements will impact earning a Professional License as follows:

¹ The requirements and paths that must be followed for an Initial License for teachers are found in 7.04. The requirements for an Initial License for principal and assistant principal and supervisor/director are found in 7.09.

² Candidates may qualify under current requirements for an Initial License prior to July 1, 2014 for each path and must then qualify for the ELL Endorsement according to the schedule established in Chapter 14, 14.07(2), or before this license can be advanced to the Professional level, whichever occurs first.

- Candidates completing an approved preparation program for a Professional License on or after July 1, 2014 (7.15(14)(d), p.17) will meet the SEI Endorsement requirements as part of their preparation.³
- Candidates who qualify for a Professional License through
 - a performance assessment,
 - possession of a masters degree either in the discipline or who have earned 12 additional graduate level credits in the discipline,
 - the award of National Board Certification (or equivalent), OR
 - who possess a Professional License and seek to add an additional Professional License
 must qualify for the SEI Endorsement according to the schedule established in Chapter 14, 14.07(2).

Provisional/Preliminary License: This license was originally developed to facilitate a path to teaching for experienced professionals working in other careers; it also has been widely used by college graduates with limited work experience to “try out” teaching without first completing an approved preparation program. This license is valid for 5 years of employment. Educators holding a Preliminary License in fields within the definition of core academic teacher as defined in 603 CMR 7.02, principals, assistant principals, and supervisors/directors who supervise SEI teachers, must qualify for the SEI Teacher or Administrator Endorsement according to the schedule established in Chapter 14, 14.07(2), or before this license can be advanced to the Initial level, whichever occurs first.

Temporary License: This license is for candidates who hold and have worked for at least 3 years under a valid educator license from another state; this license is valid for 1 year of employment during which the holder must pass the relevant MTEL examinations in order to qualify for an Initial License. Candidates for a Temporary License in fields included within the definition of core academic teacher in 603 CMR 7.02, principals, assistant principals, and supervisors/directors who supervise SEI teachers, on or after July 1, 2013 (7.15(14)(d), p.17) must meet the requirements for the SEI Teacher Endorsement. Teachers seeking to advance a Temporary License to an Initial License in these fields after June 30, 2014 (7.15(14)(d), p.17) must possess the SEI Teacher Endorsement.

B. LICENSE RENEWAL:

This section outlines the plan to amend the regulations for educators seeking to renew a Professional License. Educators holding one or more Professional License(s) are required to renew them every 5 calendar years. Educators are currently required to develop an Individual Professional Development Plan (IPDP) and earn 150 Professional Development Points (PDPs) to renew their primary license, 80% (120 PDPs) of which must be in the content area of the license (not less than 90 PDPs) or in pedagogy directly related to the license; an additional 30 PDPs must be earned for each additional license.

We propose the following amendments to the regulations for license renewal:

³ Candidates may qualify under current requirements for a Professional License prior to July 1, 2014 and must then qualify for the ELL Endorsement according to the schedule established in Chapter 14, 14.07(2).

1. The regulations for “Approval of Professional Development Plans” (44.04) are updated to:
 - a. add a focus on “...the quality, grounded in research, of the proposed professional development” [44.04(1)(b), p.5]
 - b. allows the same plan to be used for the IPDP as is used for the purposes of educator evaluation ([44.04(1)(c), p.5]
2. The current requirement that 80% of PDPs must be in the content area of the license is revised such that 60 PDPS must be in the content area or content-based pedagogical knowledge; 30 PDPs in pedagogy; 15 PDPs in Sheltered English Immersion or English as a Second Language content; 15 PDP in Special Education content; and 30 elective PDPs. [44.06(2), p.9]
3. Educators holding licenses in the fields included within the definition of core academic teacher as defined in 603 CMR 7.02, principals, assistant principals, and supervisor-directors who supervise SEI teachers, will be required to qualify for the SEI Teacher or Administrator Endorsement according to the timetable established pursuant to 14.07(2) or when they advance their license to the next stage, whichever occurs first.
4. Educators holding a Professional License who earn the SEI Teacher or Administrator Endorsement shall accrue the number of PDPs specified by the Department that can be applied to the renewal of their license.
5. Educators who meet the PDP requirements for the renewal of their Professional License prior to earning the SEI Teacher or Administrator Endorsement shall be allowed to carry the additional PDPs associated with this Endorsement into their next license renewal cycle.
6. All licensed educators will be required to earn at least 15 PDPs related to ELL and 15 PDPs related to Special Education knowledge and professional practice standards in order to renew their primary Professional License after June 30, 2014 [44.06(2), p.9].

C. EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL AND TESTING:

Consistent with both statutory and regulatory requirements, every candidate for an Initial or Preliminary License must pass the Communication and Literacy Skills test as well as one or more subject matter content tests. Under current regulations, the subject matter tests must be aligned with the knowledge requirements stipulated in regulation (603 CMR 7.06) by the Board for each teacher license and where applicable, the content included in curriculum frameworks approved by the Board.

The Department also has sole statutory authority to approve K-12 educator preparation programs. The criteria for educator preparation program approval are stated in regulation (603 CMR 7.03), and also reference the knowledge requirements (7.06) and the professional standards for teachers (7.08) and administrators (7.10).

We propose the following amendments to the regulations for educator preparation program approval and related educator testing:

1. The subject matter knowledge standards for teachers are supplemented by the new SEI knowledge requirements (7.14, see App. A and p.11 of the attached regulations)

that must be addressed by preparation programs for core academic teachers as defined in 7.02, principals, assistant principals and supervisor-directors by July 1, 2014 [7.03(2)(a)(1)(a), p.2]

- a. A new MTEL SEI examination will be developed and made available to educators who elect to use this option to demonstrate that they meet the SEI-related standards for core academic teachers, principal and supervisor-director licenses. Passing this test will qualify an educator for the SEI Teacher Endorsement.
 - b. Selected items developed for the new MTEL SEI examination will be incorporated into the existing MTEL examinations for the core academic subjects defined for SEI Teachers in 7.02 as they are updated.
2. The updated professional standards for teachers (7.08) and administrators (7.10) must be incorporated into preparation programs for core academic teachers as defined in 7.02, principals, and supervisor-directors by July 1, 2014 [7.03(7)(e)(f), p.2]
 3. The Commissioner, in consultation with the Commissioner of Higher Education, shall issue guidelines for the preparation of core academic teachers teachers as defined in 7.02, principals, assistant principals and supervisor-directors [7.03(7)(f), p.2].