



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3000
TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370

Mitchell D. Chester, Ed.D.
Commissioner

Attachment 2:

Summary of Proposed Changes to Educator Licensure and Preparation Approval Regulations (603 CMR 7.00), Education of English Learners (603 CMR 14.00), and Recertification (603 CMR 44.00)

Summary of Final Regulations

Strengthening teaching and learning for English Language Learners (ELLs) is a key to closing the proficiency gap. These amendments to the Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Programs, Recertification, and Education of English Learners are designed to improve and better support academic achievement of ELLs. They are part of the RETELL (Rethinking Equity and Teaching for English Language Learners) initiative, a comprehensive approach to improving the education and support of ELLs in Massachusetts public schools.

It is the state's role to define the basic preparation and training that teachers and other educators must have to be licensed. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) notified us in July 2011 that the state has a duty to mandate preparation and training requirements for educators of ELLs in the Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) program.

What changes would result if the regulations are approved?

- A. Create an SEI Teacher Endorsement and SEI Administrator Endorsement that defines essential knowledge and professional practice standards for core academic teachers^[1] who work with ELLs and the building administrators who supervise those teachers. [603 CMR 7.08 and 7.14]
- B. As of June 1, 2013, require approved educator preparation programs to align their programs with the new knowledge and professional practice standards. (603 CMR 7.03)
- C. As of July 1, 2014, require applicants for an initial license as a core academic teacher or a principal/assistant principal or supervisor/director to meet requirements for SEI Teacher and SEI Administrator Endorsement, respectively.

^[1] "Core academic teacher" includes early childhood and elementary teachers, teachers of students with moderate disabilities and severe disabilities, and teachers of English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, civics and government, economic, history, and geography. [603 CMR 7.02 and 603 CMR 44.02]

- D. As of July 1, 2016, prohibit assignment of a core academic teacher to provide SEI unless the teacher holds an SEI Teacher Endorsement or will obtain one within one year. (603 CMR 7.15(9)(b) and 14.07(3))
- Require a school district that assigns an ELL to a core academic teacher who has a year to obtain an endorsement to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the ELL has SEI-endorsed teachers in subsequent school years. (14.07(3))
- E. As of July 1, 2016, prohibit assignment of a principal/assistant principal, or supervisor/director to evaluate or supervise an SEI teacher, unless the individual holds SEI Administrator Endorsement or SEI Teacher Endorsement or will obtain one within one year. (603 CMR 7.15(9)(b))
- F. As of July 1, 2016, require all educators who seek to renew their educator licenses to earn at least 15 Professional Development Points (PDPs) related to SEI or English as a Second Language and at least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and instruction of students with diverse learning styles – on the theory that every educator needs basic knowledge to work effectively with these student populations. (603 CMR 44.06(2))
- G. Require designated core academic teachers of ELLs in school districts, including charter schools and education collaboratives, and building administrators who supervise such teachers, to participate in SEI training provided by the Department beginning during the 2012-2013 school year and ending in the 2015-2016 school year, to earn the SEI endorsement.
- The training schedule would give the highest priority to training teachers and administrators in school districts with a high incidence of ELLs and low ELL performance. (603 CMR 14.07)
- H. Deny advancement or renewal of a license if an educator fails to obtain an SEI endorsement within the time period scheduled for the educator's cohort training, subject to hardship exception. (603 CMR 7.15(b); 603 CMR 44.03(5); and 14.07(2)b.)
- I. Clarify the process for approval of individual professional development plans. (603 CMR 44.06)
- J. Clarify the process for application for license renewal.
- K. Clarify the process to challenge determination of failure to satisfy renewal requirements. (603 CMR 44.11)

L. Make minor edits and delete obsolete language.