**Enclosure #5 – Proposed Amendment to Educator Licensure Regulations, 603 CMR 7.00 (Pilot Alternative Assessments for Licensure), for Final Approval – Clean Version**

**Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial action: Jan. 28, 2020**

**Period of public comment: Feb. 12–Mar. 13, 2020**

# Final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education anticipated: Oct. 20, 2020

# For the complete text of the current regulations, 603 CMR 7.00, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html>

**603 CMR 7.04 Types of Educator Licenses, Requirements for Licensure, Licenses Issued, and Requirements for Field-Based Experience**

**(1) Types of Licenses.**

(a) Provisional

(b) Initial

(c) Professional

(d) Temporary

**(2) Requirements for Teacher Licensure.**

(a) **Provisional**. This is available only for licenses under 603 CMR 7.04 (3) (a)

1. Possession of a bachelor's degree.
2. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.
3. Passing score on the subject matter knowledge test(s) appropriate to the license sought, based on the subject matter knowledge requirements set forth in 603 CMR 7.06, where available.
4. Competency Review for candidates seeking the following licenses:
   1. Teacher of students with moderate disabilities, teacher of students with severe disabilities, teacher of the deaf and hard-of-hearing, and teacher of the visually impaired.
   2. Fields for which there is no subject matter knowledge test available.
5. Additional requirements for the early childhood, elementary, teacher of students with moderate disabilities, teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing (Oral/Aural) and teacher of the visually impaired licenses:
   1. Seminars or courses on ways to prepare and maintain students with disabilities for general classrooms; for example, use of strategies for learning and of behavioral management principles.
   2. Passing score on the Foundations of Reading test.
6. Additional requirements for the teacher of students with severe disabilities, and teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing (American Sign Language/Total Communication) licenses: Seminars or courses on ways to prepare and maintain students with disabilities for general classrooms; for example, use of strategies for learning and of behavioral management principles.
7. Evidence of sound moral character.

(b) **Initial**

1. Possession of a bachelor's degree.
2. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.
3. Passing score on the subject matter knowledge test(s) appropriate to the license sought, based on the subject matter knowledge requirements set forth in the Subject Matter Knowledge Guidelines. Where no test has been established, completion of an approved program will satisfy this requirement.
4. Completion of an approved route for the Initial license sought as set forth in 603 CMR 7.05.
5. For core academic teachers, possession of an SEI Teacher Endorsement.
6. Evidence of sound moral character.

(c) **Professional**

1. Possession of an Initial license in the same field as the Professional license sought.
2. Completion of a one-year induction program with a mentor and at least 50 hours of a mentored experience beyond the induction year.
3. At least three full years of employment under the Initial license.
4. Completion of one of the following:
   1. An approved licensure program for the Professional license sought as set forth in the Guidelines for Program Approval.
   2. A program leading to eligibility for master teacher status, such as those sponsored by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and others accepted by the Commissioner.
   3. For those who have completed any master's or higher degree or other advanced graduate program in an accredited college or university, at least 12 credits of graduate level courses in subject matter knowledge or pedagogy based on the subject matter knowledge of the Professional license sought; these may include credits earned prior to application for the license.
5. Additional requirement for the teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing license (American Sign Language/Total Communication): Passing score on a test of sign language proficiency approved by the Department.

(d) **Temporary**

1. Possession of a bachelor's degree.
2. Possession of a valid educator license or certificate from another state or jurisdiction.
3. At least three years of employment under such valid license or certificate.
4. Has not failed any part of the applicable licensure tests required by 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (a) 2. and 3.
5. Evidence of sound moral character.

(e) **Alternative Assessment Pilot**

The Department may conduct a pilot of alternative assessments identified or developed to satisfy the requirements of 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (a) (2) and (3), and 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (b) (2) and (3), and 603 CMR 1.06 (4) (a). Any alternative assessment identified or developed for this purpose shall be determined by the Commissioner to be comparable to the MTEL Communication and Literacy Skills test or subject matter knowledge test. The alternative assessment pilot period shall continue through June 30, 2024. Any candidate who passes an alternative assessment during that period will be deemed to have satisfied the requirements of 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (a) (2), or (a) (3), or 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (b) (2) or (b) (3), or 603 CMR 1.06 (4) (a), as applicable. During the period of the alternative assessment pilot, the Commissioner will report to the Board at least annually on any alternative assessments, including the number of candidates taking the alternative assessments, any evaluative information regarding these candidates, patterns of employment, and feedback from school districts and educator preparation programs. Prior to making any recommendations following the conclusion of the pilot, the Commissioner shall conduct or contract for an evaluation of the alternative assessment pilot.