*****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

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| Jeffrey C. Riley  *Commissioner* |  |

# MEMORANDUM

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| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Jeffrey C. Riley, Commissioner |
| **Date:** | October 18, 2022 |
| **Subject:** | Proposed Amendments: Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval Regulations, 603 CMR 7.00 |

I am presenting to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) this month proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, the Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, for a vote to solicit public comment and then a final vote by the Board in February 2023 following the public comment period.

The proposed amendments will:

* Extend the Pilot of Alternative Assessments by one year through June 30, 2025 and update language regarding the pilot period;
* Add a new Provisional license option for Principals/Assistant Principals;
* Add a new Military Spouse license;
* Create a new out-of-state option for candidates to meet the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement requirement; and
* Streamline and update other references within the regulations.

**Proposed Amendment to Extend the Pilot of Alternative Assessments for Educator Licensure and Update Language Regarding the Pilot Period**

As of October 2022, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) has approved 21 alternative assessments for licensure and begun implementation for most of these. More information about the regulatory pilot is in the 2022 annual report that is also being presented to the Board this month; the initial report was provided to the Board in an [October 2021 Memo to the Board](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2022/2021-10/item7.docx).

We continue to see interest in the opportunities for licensure candidates to demonstrate content knowledge and communication and literacy skills via alternative assessments, while noting that implementation of the pilot has been affected by the pandemic in several ways. These include the extension of emergency licenses, allowing candidates additional time to access and complete licensure tests; strained capacity at educator preparation organizations that may limit them from applying to offer the educator preparation attestation alternative assessments; and the impact of the pandemic on the student achievement data being used in the evaluation of this regulatory pilot. The proposed extension of the regulatory pilot through June 2025 would allow for an additional year of data collection (see table below), as well as the ability to add retention data for the educators who took alternative assessments.

**Scheduled and Anticipated Data Collection**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Academic Year** | **Cohort 1** | **Cohort 2** | **Cohort 3** |
| 2021–2022 | *In Pilot*  Surveys  Completion Outcomes |  |  |
| 2022–2023 | Employment Outcomes  Evaluation Ratings  Student Outcomes  Structured Interviews | *In Pilot*  Surveys  Completion Outcomes  Structured Interviews |  |
| 2023–2024 | Employment Outcomes  Evaluation Ratings  Student Outcomes | Employment Outcomes  Evaluation Ratings  Student Outcomes | *In Pilot*  Surveys  Completion Outcomes |
| Proposed additional year:  2024-2025 | Employment Outcomes\*  Evaluation Ratings\*  Student Outcomes\* | Employment Outcomes\*  Evaluation Ratings\*  Student Outcomes\* | Employment Outcomes\*  Evaluation Ratings\*  Student Outcomes\* |

\* Employment, Student, and Completion Outcomes data that are available prior to June 30, 2025 can be included in the evaluation if the Board extends the pilot.

In addition to extending the regulatory pilot by one year for the reasons outlined above, this proposed amendment would update language regarding the pilot period. Specifically, the proposed amendment would make clear that candidates who passed an approved alternative assessment before October 20, 2020 (the date the pilot regulation was adopted) are eligible to participate in the Pilot.

**Proposed Amendments for New Licenses: A Provisional License Option for Principals/Assistant Principals and a New Military Spouse License**

The Department is continuing to support districts that are facing staffing challenges. Currently, currently both Teachers and Superintendents/Assistant Superintendents may be employed on a Provisional license while they work to complete requirements for an Initial license. In these proposed amendments, the Department would create a similar option for Principals/Assistant Principals, allowing them to earn the Provisional license based on completion of certain preparation requirements, but prior to completing the Performance Assessment for Licensure (PAL). This would allow candidates more time to meet the requirements for PAL while working in the role. Upon completion of PAL, candidates would be eligible for the Initial license.

In addition, based on new statutory language ([Acts of 2022, c. 154, sec. 10](https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2022/Chapter154#:~:text=post%2Dgraduate%20degree.-,An%20unemancipated%20person%20whose%20parent%20or%20guardian%20is%20a%20member,as%20an%20in%2Dstate%20student.), amending G.L. c. 71, sec. 38G), the spouse of a military service member who is serving in the Commonwealth or living in the Commonwealth and serving in a border state of Massachusetts, and who has a bachelor’s degree and holds a valid educator license from another state, would be eligible for a Military Spouse License for three years of employment. This new license would also create an additional pipeline of educators to be employed in our Massachusetts public school districts.

Proposed Amendments:

* Create a new Provisional license for Principals and Assistant Principals to better support a pipeline into the Assistant Principal and Principal roles in our schools – 7.09
* Create a new Military Spouse License in alignment with new statutory language – 7.04

**Additional Proposed Amendments:**

With the Board’s approval, the Department will also solicit public comment on other proposed amendments that are designed to:

* Create a new option for out-of-state candidates to meet the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement requirement, and
* Streamline and clarify requirements for educator preparation and licensure.

The following are the specific proposed revisions:

* Create a new option for out-of-state candidates to meet the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement requirement – 7.14
* Align the program approval requirements to Guidelines for Program Approval – 7.03
* Create additional flexibilities in coursework for professional licensure – 7.04
* Clarify expectation that practicum experiences are in the licensure role – 7.04
* Combine History and Social Science into one license in alignment with the MA Curriculum Frameworks and subject matter knowledge requirements – 7.04
* Change the name of the Foreign Language license to World Language in alignment with the MA Curriculum Frameworks – 7.04
* Add a new PreK-6 level for the Digital Learning and Computer Science license in support of district needs – 7.04
* Remove the Performance Assessment requirement for all administrator licenses *other than* the Principal/Assistant Principal, because the Performance Assessment for Licensure has been developed only for the Principal/Assistant Principal license – 7.09
* Combine the levels for School Counselors to have one all-level license in alignment with other Professional Support Personnel licenses and to create greater flexibility for employment – 7.11

Brian Devine, Director of Licensure; Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness; Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy; Allison Balter, Director of the Office of Language Acquisition; and Lucy Wall of our legal staff will join us for the discussion.

After reviewing all the comments and determining whether further changes are needed, I plan to bring the amendments back to the Board in February 2023 for final adoption.

A redlined version of the regulations is attached, along with a motion to solicit public comment on the proposed amendments.

Enclosures:

603 CMR 7.00 Strikethrough version of relevant portion of regulations showing amendments

Motion