*****Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

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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:** | February 22, 2023 |
| **Subject:** | Amendments to Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00 |

On October 25, 2022, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) [voted to solicit public comment on proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2022-10/item4b.docx).00. I am recommending that the Board adopt the amendments with a few modifications based on the public comments that the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) received. I have enclosed a summary of the comments and the Department’s responses. All comments are available upon request. I recommend that the Board vote on February 28, 2023 to adopt the proposed amendments including minor modifications.

**Background**

At the October 2022 Board meeting, the Board voted to release for public comment proposed amendments to the Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00.

The first proposed amendment extends the timeline for piloting alternative assessments for licensure. As described in the [October Board package](https://www.doe.mass.edu/bese/docs/fy2023/2022-10/) and as was shared by our evaluators of the alternative licensure assessment pilot at the October 2022 meeting, the Department has approved 21 alternative assessments for licensure and begun implementation for most of these. We have seen increasing interest in the opportunities for licensure candidates to demonstrate content knowledge and communication and literacy skills via alternative assessments; however, the pandemic has affected implementation of the pilot in several ways, including educator access to alternatives, and sufficient data collection. The one-year extension of the regulatory pilot through June 2025 would allow for an additional year of data collection, as well as the ability to add retention data for the educators who took alternative assessments.

The other regulatory amendments are designed to support schools and districts with licensure flexibilities including, but not limited to:

* Creating an option for Principals/Assistant Principals to earn a Provisional license based on completion of certain preparation requirements, but prior to completing the Performance Assessment for Licensure (PAL);
* Creating a new Military Spouse license 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), allowing 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, to be eligible for a Military Spouse License for three years of employment;
* Allowing the use of an out-of-state Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) endorsement that is comparable to the Massachusetts SEI endorsement; and
* Streamlining requirements and references in the regulations.

**Overview of Comments Received**

The public comment period closed on January 3, 2023. In total, the Department received comments from over 200 commenters, most of whom were individuals, including the following roles: teacher/instructional coach, district/school administrator, educator preparation faculty/administrator, parent/community member, and student. The following six organizations each submitted a group/organization response:

* American Federation of Teachers-Massachusetts
* Massachusetts Teachers Association
* Massachusetts School Administrators Association
* UMass-Boston (Ed Admin)
* Norton Public Schools

While the level of agreement varied across the different amendments, in general commenters were in favor of all proposed changes. The Department made a few modifications based on the comments. Attached is a summary of the comments and the Department’s analysis and responses.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that the Board adopt the amendments to 603 CMR 7.00 as presented. They include these key provisions:

* Extend the alternative licensure assessment pilot by one-year to June 30, 2025;
* Add a new Provisional license option for Principals/Assistant Principals;
* Add a new Military Spouse license;
* Create a new option for candidates from out of state to meet the Sheltered English Immersion endorsement requirement; and
* Streamline and update other references in the regulations.

The regulations as presented include

the following modifications based on public comment:

* For the provisional educator license for Principal/Assistant Principal:
  + Require prerequisite experience to be in education;
  + Provide an option for candidates to receive a Provisional license if they completed an approved program or have an equivalent license from another state with which Massachusetts has an agreement approved by the Commissioner.
* Add language in General Provisions, 603 CMR 7.15, clarifying implementation timelines.

A redlined version of the regulations is attached, along with a motion to adopt the amendments. Brian Devine, Director of Licensure; Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness; Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy; and Lucy Wall of our legal staff will be available to answer questions at the February 28, 2023 meeting.

Enclosures:Summary of Public Comments Received and Department Response

603 CMR 7.00 –Redlined regulation showing amendments and changes based on

public comments

Motion