

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO EDUCATOR LICENSURE REGULATIONS 603 CMR 7.00

- Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial review and vote to solicit public comment: **December 21, 2010**
- Period of public comment: **through March 25, 2011**
- Final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education anticipated: **April 27, 2011**

Background:

Chapter 299 of the Acts of 2010, *An Act Relative to Augmentative and Alternative Communication Opportunities for Children*, directs the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to amend two sections of the Educator Licensure regulations – 603 CMR 7.06(25)(d) and 603 CMR 7.06(26)(b)12 – to require approved teacher preparation programs leading to licensure as either a teacher of students with moderate disabilities or a teacher of students with severe disabilities to add “instruction on the appropriate use of augmentative and alternative communication and other assistive technologies.” The final amendments to the regulations include these changes, as well as amendments to 603 CMR 7.03 and 7.14 to address effective dates of the program and licensure requirements. In addition, the final amendments include definitions.

603 CMR 7.00

7.02 Definitions:

As used in 603 CMR 7.00, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Augmentative and alternative communication: Methods of communication other than oral speech that enhance or replace conventional forms of expressive and receptive communication to facilitate interaction by and with persons with disabilities who are nonverbal or have limited speech, including, but not limited to: specialized gestures and signs; communication aids such as charts, symbol systems, visual supports, and language boards; mouth sticks; and electronic communication devices such as switches, head pointers, eye tracking, dynamic displays, auditory scanning, and voice output devices.

Assistive Technology: Assistive technology devices and services as defined under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC §§1401(1), 1401(2); 34 CFR §§300.5, 300.6.

...

7.03: Educator Preparation Program Approval

(7) Implementation

...

(d) Approved Programs leading to the following licenses must address the requirements set forth in 7.06(25) (d) (4) and 7.06(26) (b)12 by August 31, 2011: Teachers of Students with Moderate and Teachers of Students with Severe Disabilities.

7.06 Subject Matter Knowledge Requirements for Teachers

(25) Teachers of Students with Moderate Disabilities (Levels: Pre-K to 8; 5-12)

...

(d) The following topics shall be included in an approved program but will not be addressed on a test of subject matter knowledge:

1. Educational terminology for students with mild to moderate disabilities.
2. Preparation, implementation, and evaluation of Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).
3. Design or modification of curriculum, instructional materials, and general education classroom environments for students with moderate disabilities.
4. Instruction on the appropriate use of augmentative and alternative communication and other assistive technologies.

(current subparagraphs 4-8, renumbered 5-9)

(26) Teachers of Students with Severe Disabilities (Levels: All)

...

(b) The following topics shall be included in an approved program but will not be addressed on a test of subject matter knowledge:

...

12. Instruction on the appropriate use of augmentative and alternative communication and other assistive technologies.

...

7.14 General Provisions

(14) Implementation

...

(h) Individuals who apply and complete all requirements for initial or preliminary licensure as a Teacher of Students with Moderate Disabilities prior to August 31, 2012, may qualify for an initial or preliminary license by meeting the requirements under 603 CMR 7.06 (25) in effect prior to

July 1, 2011.

(i) Individuals who apply and complete all requirements for initial or preliminary licensure as a Teacher of Students with Severe Disabilities prior to August 31, 2012, may qualify for an initial or preliminary license by meeting the requirements under 603 CMR 7.06 (26) in effect prior to July 1, 2011.