

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE
AND PREPARATION PROGRAM APPROVAL, 603 CMR 7.00,
LICENSURE RENEWAL, 603 CMR 44.00, and
EDUCATION OF ENGLISH LEARNERS, 603 CMR 14.00**

- Presented to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education for initial review and vote to solicit public comment: **February 28, 2012**
- Period of public comment: **through April 20, 2012**
- Final action by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education anticipated: **May 22, 2012**

Background:

At the September 2011 meeting of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Commissioner reported on the need to strengthen programs for English language learners (ELLs) and to update and revise Department-sponsored training that has been available to, but not required of, core academic teachers of ELLs since 2004. Additionally, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has informed the Board and Commissioner that it believes the Department "has failed to take appropriate action to overcome ELL students' language barriers by not requiring [sheltered English immersion] teachers to receive category or other SEI training" and that the current category training "falls short of what the EEOA [the federal Equal Education Opportunities Act, 20 USC §1703(f)] requires."¹ The Board directed the Commissioner to present at its February 2012 meeting, among other things, proposed amendments to the educator preparation, licensure, and licensure renewal regulations, defining the preparation and training to be required of core academic teachers who provide sheltered English instruction to ELLs. The Board also directed the Commissioner to address implementation of the training.

Proposed amendments to the regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00, Educator Licensure Renewal, 603 CMR 44.00, and Education of English Learners, 603 CMR 14.00, are presented below. Although they pertain to different chapters of the Board's regulations, these proposed amendments are interconnected and part of a comprehensive redesign of standards and knowledge essential for core academic teachers who provide sheltered English instruction. The proposed amendments are intended to do the following:

- Create a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement for educator licensure, license renewal, and advancement of a license (for example, from initial license to professional license) that defines essential knowledge and professional practice standards for teachers who instruct ELLs.
- Require all core academic teachers of ELLs to earn the SEI Teacher Endorsement, and the administrators who supervise them to earn the SEI Administrator

¹ During the comment period, we will continue our discussions with DOJ around the sufficiency of the proposed regulations and other aspects of RETELL not yet complete (for example, the Department-approved course of study/training), that DOJ officials have indicated are essential to comply with the EEOA..

Endorsement, either upon initial licensure, or when they advance their license to another level (for example, initial licensure to professional license), or when they renew they renew their educator license.

- Require educator preparation programs to align their programs with the new knowledge and professional practice standards.
- Require all licensed educators who seek to renew their educator license to earn at least 15 professional development points (PDPs) related to SEI and/or English as a Second Language and 15 PDP's related to instruction of students with disabilities.
- Create timetables for phasing in the new requirements.
- Provide an accelerated schedule for cohorts of core academic teachers who instruct ELLs and administrators who supervise such teachers, to obtain the SEI endorsement during the period from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2016. The schedule would give highest priority to training teachers and administrators in districts with a high incidence of ELLs and low student performance.
 - ✓ With respect to identified high incidence districts, the Department plans to roll out training to facilitate expedited compliance with the new standards and licensure requirements, subject to available funds.
- Starting on August 1, 2016, require that no core academic teacher be assigned to provide subject matter instruction in English to an ELL student unless such teacher holds an SEI endorsement, or will meet the requirements for an SEI endorsement within one year from the date of the assignment, or by the deadline for renewal of the teacher's license, whichever date is earlier.

The proposed amendments also make some editorial changes for clarity and delete outdated provisions.

Proposed amendments are indicated by underline (new language) or ~~striketrough~~ (deleted language). Sections of the regulations that are not being changed are omitted. For the complete text of the current Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html>; for Licensure Renewal, see 603 CMR 44.00, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr44.html>; and or Education of English Learners, 603 CMR 14.00, see <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr14.html>.