# MEMORANDUM

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **To:** | Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education |
| **From:** | Patrick Tutwiler, Interim Commissioner  |
| **Date:** | May 13, 2025 |
| **Subject:** | Educator Licensure: Amendments to Regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00 (MTEL Alternatives and Other Updates), for Final Adoption |

In February 2025, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) voted to solicit public comment on proposed amendments to the regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (603 CMR 7.00). The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) invited public comment on the proposed regulatory changes from February 26 through April 4, 2025. As discussed below, based on the comments received, I am recommending one additional change to the regulation. Enclosed with this memorandum are the amended regulations, 603 CMR 7.00, for final adoption.

**Background**

At the February 2025 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. Key provisions of the proposed amendments that went out for public comment include the following:

* Continuing authorization of alternative assessments for educator licensure (603 CMR 7.03);
* Creating a new Media Arts Endorsement to allow teachers to demonstrate a body of knowledge that aligns to the MA Arts Curriculum Framework (603 CMR 7.04, 7.14);
* Creating additional flexibilities in coursework for professional licensure (603 CMR 7.04);
* Changing the name of the Health/Family and Consumer Sciences license to Comprehensive Health in alignment with the MA Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework, and shifting from All Levels to PK-8 and 5-12 (603 CMR 7.04);
* Allowing the Bilingual Endorsement as an alternative to the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement for initial licenses in core academic areas (603 CMR 7.04);
* Specifying that Emergency licenses may not be extended beyond June 30, 2027 (603 CMR 7.15); and
* Removing outdated language relating to licensure flexibilities that were available during the COVID-19 pandemic (603 CMR 7.02, 7.15), transition periods from past licensure changes that are no longer relevant (603 CMR 7.15), and a Performance Assessment Program that is no longer relevant (603 CMR 7.02).

**Summary of Public Comment**

During the public comment period, the Department received comments from over 90 commenters, including both individuals and interested organizations. Individuals included those with the following roles: teacher, parent/community member, member of an advocacy organization, student, school administrator, district administrator, and educator preparation program provider. A summary of the public comment and the Department’s response is enclosed.

**Response to Public Comment**

Based on the public comment received, I am recommending one additional change to the regulations proposed at the February 25, 2025 Board meeting. The proposed regulations, in section 603 CMR 7.15, included a new Media Arts Endorsement and included a list of prerequisite license options. To address the concern about the list of vocational teacher licenses, we have expanded the list of prerequisite license options.

At the May 20, 2025 Board meeting, Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness, Allison Balter, Director of the Office of Language Acquisition, Brian Devine, Director of Licensure, Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy, and Lucy Wall of our legal staff will present a summary of the public comment as well as the additional proposed change to the regulations.

Attached are four documents: the February 19, 2025 memorandum from Acting Commissioner Johnston outlining the proposed revisions to 603 CMR 7.00; a summary of public comment received and the Department’s response; the proposed final regulations; and a motion to adopt the regulations. All comments, with personal data redacted as required, are available upon request.

Attachments:

* February 19, 2025 memorandum
* Summary of Public Comment
* Proposed Final Regulations
* Motion 603 CMR 7.00