




THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Joseph P. Frey 

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment of Section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner Relating to the Graduate Level Clinically Rich Teacher Preparation Pilot Programs

DATE: February 21, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

SUMMARY

Issue for Decision

Should the Board of Regents adopt the proposed amendment relating to the graduate level clinically rich teacher preparation pilot programs?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed regulatory amendment is submitted to the Higher Education Committee for adoption as an emergency measure at its March 2011 meeting. A statement of facts and circumstances justifying the emergency is attached.

Background Information

At its April 2010 meeting, the Board of Regents adopted a regulation, effective May 1, 2010, establishing graduate level clinically rich teacher preparation pilot programs. The regulation adopted in April 2010 provided, among other things, that completion of the pilot programs would lead to a professional Master of Arts in Teaching degree.

Some higher education institutions offering graduate teacher education programs do not have the authority to confer a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. In order to

provide these institutions with flexibility to confer other appropriate degrees, the proposed amendment authorizes higher education institutions to confer one of the specialized degrees in education prescribed in section 3.50(b)(5) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, a Master of Professional Studies degree or a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree as prescribed in section 3.50(a) of the Rules of the Board of Regents. For institutions, other than institutions of higher education, that meet the requirements in section 52.21(b)(5) of the Commissioner's regulations, the Regents will confer a Master of Arts in Teaching degree upon their candidates.

Recommendation

VOTED: That clause (d) of subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (5) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education be amended, effective March 11, 2011, as an emergency action upon a finding by the Board of Regents that such action is necessary for the preservation of the general welfare in order to timely implement the provisions of the proposed amendment to provide program providers with notice of the degree requirements before the 2011-2012 school year.

Timetable for Implementation

If adopted at the March Regents meeting, the proposed amendment will become effective as an emergency rule on March 11, 2011.

Attachment 1

AMENDMENT OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Pursuant to sections 207, 208, 210, 214, 216, 224, 305, 3001, 3004 and 3006 of the Education Law

1. Clause (d) of subparagraph (iv) paragraph (5) shall be added to subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective March 11, 2011, to read as follows:

(d) Degree.

(1) Successful completion of the pilot program shall lead to [a professional Master of Arts in Teaching degree] either one of the specialized master's degrees in education prescribed in section 3.50(b)(5) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, a Master of Professional Studies degree or a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree as prescribed in section 3.50(a) of the Rules of the Board of Regents.

(2) Any institution that offers a program, other than an institution of higher education, shall certify to the department that the candidate has satisfactorily met the requirements of this paragraph. Upon receipt of such certification from an institution other than an institution of higher education, the Board of Regents will [issue] confer a professional Master of Arts in Teaching degree [to] on such candidate provided that the program remains in good standing with the Department.

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
WHICH NECESSITATE EMERGENCY ACTION

At its April 2010 meeting, the Board of Regents established certain eligibility requirements to participate in the clinically rich teacher preparation pilot program, including certain curriculum requirements, a clinical component, mentoring and training requirements and requirements for the conferral of degrees upon completion of the program.

The regulation adopted in April 2010 provided, among other things, that completion of the pilot programs would lead to a professional Master of Arts in Teaching degree. Some higher education institutions offering graduate teacher education programs do not have the authority to confer a Master of Arts in Teaching degree. In order to provide these institutions with the flexibility to confer other appropriate degrees, the proposed amendment authorizes higher education institutions to confer one of the specialized degrees in education prescribed in section 3.50(b)(5) of the Rules of the Board of Regents, a Master of Professional Studies degree or a Master of Arts or Master of Science degree as prescribed in section 3.50(a) of the Rules of the Board of Regents. For institutions, other than institutions of higher education, that meet the requirements in section 52.21(b)(5) of the Commissioner's regulations, the Regents will confer a Master of Arts in Teaching degree upon their candidates.

Emergency action is necessary at the March Board of Regents meeting in order to provide higher education institutions with timely notice of the degree-conferring requirements before the 2011-2012 school year.

