Highlights of Chapter 49-2 Adopted by State Board of Education May, 2007

The proposed amendments change the scope of teaching certificates for teachers of prekindergarten through grade 4; elementary/middle grades 4 through 8; and, for all grade levels for special education teachers certified on or after January 1, 2013. The changes also refocus existing requirements for induction programs for new teachers, credit requirements for novice teachers to earn a permanent certificate, and continuing professional education requirements for all teachers. The amendments are designed to enhance teacher quality by aligning their preparation with the age and grade level of the students they will teach; improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of all teachers to effectively provide instruction to diverse learners in inclusive classroom settings; and, to meet new federal requirements for special education teachers.

The following summarizes the State Board of Education regulatory changes to Chapter 49 (relating to Certification of Professional Personnel):

Chapter 49	Highlights of Changes
§49.1. Definitions	The following definitions were revised: community provider; core academic subject; diverse learner, educational specialist, inclusive setting and prekindergarten.
§49.13. Policies	 Subsection (4) no longer specifies that reviews are to be conducted by professional educators from basic and higher education; however, a new subsection (ii) requires both basic and higher education educators to conduct program approval reviews. Subsection (i) states that by January 1, 2011, teacher education programs will require:
	 ✓ At least 9 credits or 270 hours or an equivalent combination, regarding accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting.
	Within the 9 credits or 270 hours, instruction in <i>literacy skills development</i> and <i>cognitive skill development</i> for students with disabilities must be included, as determined by the institution.
	 ✓ At least 3 credits or 90 additional hours, or an equivalent combination, must address the <i>instructional needs of English language learners</i>. ✓ 1 credits = 30 hours of coursework
	 Applicable hours are limited to a combination of seat hours of classroom instruction, field observations experiences, major research assignments, and development and implementation of lesson plans with accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting.
§49.14. Approval of institutions	Subsection (4)(ii) – institutions must demonstrate how instructional and clinical activities provide candidates with the capacity to enable the achievement of all students, including diverse learners in an inclusive setting.
§49.16. Approval of induction plans	 First year teachers in prekindergarten programs are to be included in each school's induction plan. The PDE will establish guidelines for the approval of induction plans, which must include induction activities that focus on teaching diverse learners in inclusive settings.
§ 49.17. Continuing professional education	 Subsection (a) requires that 3-year professional education plans be submitted in accordance with the professional education guidelines established by the Secretary and section 1205.1 of the School Code. Subsection (7) stipulates that a continuing professional education plan must include a description of how a school entity will offer all professional employees opportunities to participate in continuing education focused on teaching diverse learners in inclusive settings.
	• Subsection (8) stipulates that when a school district contracts with a community provider to operate a prekindergarten program, the district's professional education plan must describe how it will offer professional education opportunities to teachers in the

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Chapter 49	Highlights of Changes
·	community provider's prekindergarten program
§49.18. Assessment	General knowledge of special education candidates is added.
§49.62b. Program	The program Endorsement Certificate documents knowledge in new and emerging areas where formal certification does not
Endorsement	exist.
Certificate	This certificate is intended to improve a teacher's skills in dealing with complex classroom settings, including teaching gifted
	students or diverse learners in areas such as assistive technology curriculum modifications, autism spectrum disorders,
	assessment, and gifted education.
§49.83. Instructional II	Subsection (3) requires the PDE to publish a Certification and Staffing Policy Guideline that establishes up to the equivalent of
	six specific course credit hour requirements for each new Instructional I certificate issued by the Department after these
	regulations take effect.
§49.85. Limitations	 Certificates issued <u>before 1/1/2013</u> remain valid for the term and grade and age levels:
	✓ Early Childhood PreK-3 ages 4 -11
	✓ Elementary K-6 ages 4 - 11
	✓ Middle level 6-9 ages 11 - 15
	✓ Secondary 7-12 ages 11 - 21
	✓ Specialized areas PK-12 up to age 21
	✓ Special education PK-12 up to age 21
	 Certificates issued on or after 1/1/2013, grade and age level limitations will be:
	✓ Early Childhood PK-4 ages 3 - 9
	✓ Elementary/Middle 4-8 ages 9 – 14 (permits instruction in any subject in grades 4, 5 and 6 and in a core academic subject or
	subjects in grades 7 and 8)
	✓ Secondary 7-12 ages 11 - 21
	✓ Specialized areas PK-12 up to age 21
	✓ Special education PK-8 AND must also obtain a certificate in one of the following certificates: Early Childhood PK-4; Elementary/Middle 4-8; or Reading Specialist PK-12 ages 3 - 14
	✓ Special education 7-12 AND must also obtain a certificate in one of the following certificates: Secondary 7-12; or Reading
	Specialist PK-12 ages 11 – 21
	✓ Special Education Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired and Speech/Language Impaired PK-12 ages 3 – 21
	Decisions about staff based on age or grade levels rest with local school districts
	Secretary may grant exceptions to grade and age level limitations between Early Childhood, Elementary/Middle, Special
	Education PK-8 & Special Education 7-12; requests submitted in writing; time limit set for each exception; Secretary will issue
	guidelines that outline circumstances for exceptions.
	Prekindergarten teachers working for a community service provider under contract with a local district shall posses an Early
	Childhood Certificate based on when the provider's effective contract date contracts in place prior to adoption of regulatory
	change have 5 years from effective date of change; new contracts have 5 years from start of services.
	 Secretary may grant exceptions in response to shortages of certified personnel, but only after a written certification is
	submitted to the State Board of Education; if the State Board does not disapprove the exception within 90 days the exception
	will be approved for a term not to exceed 3 years; the Secretary will report annually the nature and status of exceptions to the
	State Board of Education.

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Chapter 49	Highlights of Changes
§49.86 Accelerated program for Early	The Department will establish standards for accelerated programs for Early Childhood and Elementary/Middle level certificate holders that will be effective 1/1/2013.
Childhood and Elementary/Middle level certificate holders	Early Childhood Instructional I or II certificate holders may add the Elementary/Middle Level I Certificate upon successful completion of approved accelerated program.
	Elementary/Middle Level Instructional I or II certificate holders may add the Early Childhood Instructional I Certificate upon successful completion of approved accelerated program.
	Accelerated programs must:
	✓ include appropriate level of academic content aligned with PA's academic standards,
	 ✓ include child development & appropriate instructional practices associated with developmental level; ✓ have candidates demonstrate subject matter knowledge by passing appropriate assessment.
§49.131. Basic requirements for baccalaureate and nonbaccalaureate programs	Special education added to subsection (b).
§49.142. Vocational Instructional I	 Subsection (3) amended to require that Vocational I certificates issued on or after 1/1/2013 include at least 3 credits or 90 hours, or equivalent combination, regarding accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting as part of the 18 credit hours in an approved vocational teacher education program. 1 credit equals 30 hours of coursework.
	Applicable hours are limited to a combination of seat hours of classroom instruction, field observation experiences, major research assignments, and development and implementation of lesson plans with accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting.
§49.143. Vocational Instructional II	• Subsection (2) amended to require that 60 credit hours include at least 6 credits or 180 hours, or an equivalent combination, regarding accommodations and adaptations for students with disabilities in an inclusive setting and at least 3 credits or 90 hours, or an equivalent combination, in teaching English language learners.
	 1 credit equals 30 hours of coursework. Applicable hours are limited to a combination of seat hours of classroom instruction, field observation experiences, major research assignments, and development and implementation of lesson plans with accommodations and adaptations for diverse learners in an inclusive setting.

Question may be referred to:

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