

AMENDMENT TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

1. A new clause (l) shall be added to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, effective April 6, 2016, to read as follows:

(l) Minimum Selection Criteria by Graduate-Level Teacher and Educational Leadership Programs Commencing Instruction on or after July 1, 2016.

(1) Institutions with registered graduate level teacher and educational leadership programs shall adopt rigorous selection criteria geared to predicting a candidate's academic success in its program. These rigorous selection criteria shall include, but not be limited to, a minimum score on the Graduate Record Examination or a substantially equivalent admission examination, as determined by the institution, and achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0, or its equivalent, in the candidate's undergraduate program.

(2) Each program may exempt no more than 15 percent of any incoming class of students from such selection criteria described in this subclause based on such student's demonstration of potential to positively contribute to the teaching and/or educational leadership professions, as applicable. A program shall report to the Department the number of students admitted pursuant to such exemption and the selection criteria used for such exemptions.

2. Subclause (3) of clause (b) of subparagraph (iv) of paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of section 52.21 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education shall be renumbered as subclause (4) and a new subclause (3) shall be added, effective April 6, 2016, to read as follows:

(3) Requirements for Suspension and/or Deregistration of Graduate-Level Teacher and Educational Leadership Program.

(i) The authority of a graduate-level teacher and educational leadership program to admit new students shall be suspended if, for three consecutive academic years, fewer than fifty percent of its students who have satisfactorily completed the program pass each examination that they have taken that is required for such student's first initial certification, or certification examinations associated with the program leading to a student's additional certification. The pass rate calculation shall include students who have taken one of the certification examinations and used a safety net pursuant to section 80-1.5(c) of this Title. Notwithstanding such suspension, the program shall be permitted to continue operations for the length of time it would take all currently admitted and/or enrolled students, if such students were to attend classes on a full-time basis, to complete the requirements for their degrees. Upon such suspension, the graduate program shall promptly notify each admitted and/or enrolled student of such suspension and in the case of students attending classes on a part-time basis, the institution shall notify these students that they will not be able to complete the program. If, during this time period, the Commissioner determines that student and/or program performance has significantly improved, the Commissioner may reinstate the program's ability to admit new students. If the Commissioner does not affirmatively reinstate the program's authority to admit new students during such time period, the program shall be deregistered.

(a) For purposes of this subclause, students who have satisfactorily completed the graduate program shall mean students who have met each educational requirement

of the program, without regard to whether such students have been awarded a degree, and excluding any requirement that the student pass each required certification examination for such student's first initial certificate, or each required certification examination for such student's school building leader certificate in order to complete the program.

(b) Following suspension of a program pursuant to the subclause, the institution may submit an appeal, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner, to the Commissioner within 30 days of such suspension. The Office of College and University Evaluation shall then have 10 days to submit a written reply to the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall then review the written papers submitted and issue a written decision on the appeal within 30 days of either the Office of College and University Evaluation' reply or if such office does not submit a reply, within 30 days of receipt of the appeal, whichever occurs later. However, a program that has had its ability to admit students suspended shall not admit new students while awaiting the Commissioner's decision on any appeal. An institution with a deregistered program shall not admit any new students in such program while awaiting the Commissioner's decision on its application for registration.

[(3)] (4) By January 15, 2000 and annually by January 15th thereafter, each institution with programs registered pursuant to this section shall provide the department with a list of all students who satisfactorily complete each of its teacher education programs in the preceding year, July 1st through June 30th.