Document No. 4638
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CHAPTER 43
Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60(1), 59-25-110, 59-26-10 et seq., and 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.

43-53. Credential Classification.

Synopsis:

State Board of Education Regulation 43-53 governs the requirements for teacher credential classifications. Amendments to Regulation 43-53 will clarify conditions in which an educator may request extensions of an initial teaching certificate; delete temporary, transitional, and graded certificate types that are no longer issued; delete the special subject certificate which is no longer issued; add the restricted alternative certificate which is allowed under No Child Left Behind; and modify language within the regulation. Current language is specific to a particular educator preparation accrediting body (the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)) The purpose of this amendment is to remove specific organizational names as these names often change. The new educator preparation accrediting body is the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP); however, a new accrediting body may be formed in the future. This change would eliminate the need for a regulation change any time an accrediting body changes.

Notice of Drafting for the proposed amendments to the regulation was published in the *State Register* on October 23, 2015.

Instructions:

Entire regulation is to be replaced with the following text.

~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~
Indicates New Matter

Text:

43-53. Credential Classification

I. Types of Credential Classification

A. Initial Certificate

An initial certificate is valid for three years. Beyond the initial three-year validity period, teachers who do not yet meet the requirements for professional certification, but who are employed by a public school district at the induction or annual contract level, as defined in S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-26-40, may have their certificates ~~renewed~~ extended annually at the request of the employing school district.

Teachers who hold initial certificates and are employed in a public school setting in a position that does not require certification or is not included in the ADEPT system may have their certificates extended annually for an indefinite period at the request of the employing school district, provided that certificate renewal requirements, as specified in R.43-55 (Renewal of Credentials), are met every five years.

Teachers who hold initial certificates and are employed in a nonpublic school educational setting may have their certificates ~~renewed~~ extended annually for an indefinite period at the request of the educational entity, provided that certificate renewal requirements, as specified in R.43-55 (Renewal of Credentials) are met every five years.

Teachers who hold initial certificates but who are not employed by a public school district in a position requiring certification at the time the initial certificate expires, and who have not otherwise met the requirements for professional certification, may reapply for an initial certificate at such time as they become employed by a public school district or private school, subject to the requirements for initial certification in effect at the time of reapplication. To qualify for an initial certificate, the applicant must fulfill the following requirements:

1. Earn a bachelor's or master's degree either from an institution that has a state-approved teacher education program and is accredited for general collegiate purposes by a regional accreditation association, or from a South Carolina institution that has programs approved for teacher education by the State Board of Education, or from an institution that has programs approved for teacher education by ~~the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)~~ a national accreditation association with which the South Carolina Department of Education has an established partnership agreement. Professional education credit must be earned through an institution that has a teacher education program approved for initial certification.

2. Submit the required teaching content area examination score(s) and the required score on the examination of general professional knowledge (pedagogy) as adopted by the State Board of Education for purposes of certification. ~~Effective July 1, 2006, the required score on the examination of general professional knowledge (pedagogy) as adopted by the State Board of Education for purposes of certification will also be required for the initial certification. Until that date, the general professional knowledge (pedagogy) exam will be required only for the professional certification.~~

3. Undergo a criminal records check by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and a national criminal records check supported by fingerprints conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). If the applicant does not complete the initial certification process within eighteen months from the original date of application, the FBI fingerprint process must be repeated. Eligible applicants who have prior arrests and/or convictions must undergo a review by the State Board of Education and be approved before a certificate may be issued. Background checks from other states or agencies are not transferable to South Carolina.

B. Professional Certificate

All professional certificates are valid for five years. To qualify for each successive level of professional certification (bachelor's degree, bachelor's degree plus 18 hours, master's degree, master's degree plus 30 hours, and doctorate), an applicant must

1. Meet all criteria for initial area of certification and have earned a bachelor's degree that meets State Board of Education regulations for teacher certification and program approval and successfully complete the induction program, the ancillary requirements (including any additional testing requirements approved by the State Board of Education), and the formal evaluation of teaching performance and effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education

OR

2. Successfully complete the requirements for reciprocity according to Interstate Agreement on Qualifications of Educational Personnel

OR

3. Hold a valid National Board teaching certification.

C. Alternative Route Certificate

1. The alternative route certificate for the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE) is valid for one year initially. The certificate will be issued to those individuals who qualify under the ~~Program for Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE)~~ PACE guidelines as adopted by the State Board of Education. Alternative certificates can be renewed twice on the basis of successful completion of annual program requirements as approved by the State Board of Education. The teacher will be eligible for a professional certificate upon his or her successful completion of all program requirements within the three-year program period, including additional testing requirements approved by the State Board of Education and the formal/summative evaluation of teaching performance and effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education.

2. The alternative route certificate for Teach For America (TFA) is valid for one year initially. The certificate will be issued to those individuals who qualify under the TFA guidelines as adopted by the State Board of Education. Alternative certificates for TFA can be renewed once on the basis of successful completion of annual program requirements as approved by the State Board of Education. A TFA teacher who chooses to pursue a professional certificate in South Carolina may be issued two additional one-year alternative route certificates in accordance with the TFA guidelines approved by the State Board of Education. The teacher will be eligible for a professional certificate upon his or her successful completion of all program requirements, including additional testing requirements approved by the State Board of Education, course work approved by the State Board of Education, and the formal/summative evaluation of teaching performance and effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education.

3. The alternative route certificate for an individual who qualifies under the American Board for the Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) Act is valid for one year initially and may be renewed twice on the basis of successful completion of annual program requirements. The teacher will be eligible for a professional certificate upon his or her successful completion of all program requirements within the three-year program period, including additional testing requirements approved by the State Board of Education and the formal/summative evaluation of teaching performance and effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education.

D. International Certificate

An International Certificate may be issued to a teacher from a country outside of the United States provided the individual has completed at least a bachelor's degree with a major in the teaching field. Organizations that recruit and select teachers from other countries to teach in South Carolina must assure that all cultural/educational visa requirements have been met. The International Certificate will be renewed annually for up to three years at the request of the local school district, provided the teacher has met the certification examination requirements specified by the State Board of Education during the first year of certification.

E. Internship Certificate

1. The Internship Certificate will be issued to individuals who are currently enrolled in a State Board of Education approved teacher education program in South Carolina and have completed all academic and bachelor's degree requirements, with the exception of the teaching internship, as well as all certification examination requirements. The certificate will be issued for up to one year, and must be requested by the employing school district. Upon completion of the teaching internship and verification by the college or university that all approved program requirements have been met, the internship certificate will be converted to an initial certificate.

2. The Internship Certificate will also be issued to any individual who is serving the required internship for certification as a School Psychologist I or II under the supervision of a certified School Psychologist II or III, or who is serving the required internship for School Psychologist III under the supervision of a certified School Psychologist III.

The applicant for the Internship Certificate in School Psychology must submit official written verification from the college or university that he or she is currently enrolled and working toward full certification as a school psychologist, and that the internship is being served through a State Board of Education-approved training program. The Internship Certificate may be renewed once on the basis of written documentation from the director of the school psychology program that the applicant is a full-time student in the program during the second year of the renewed certificate.

3. The Internship Certificate will also be issued to any individual who holds the Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech-Language Pathology issued by the American Speech-Hearing Association (ASHA) or who has completed a master's degree that includes the academic and clinical requirements for the ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence and has achieved the minimum qualifying score on the required certification examination(s). The certificate will be effective for one academic year and must be requested by the employing school district. The Internship Certificate may be converted to a professional certificate upon verification of a successful evaluation of the individual's performance during the initial year of employment.

F. Limited Professional Certificate

The purpose of the Limited Professional Certificate is to provide a certificate advancement option for educators who hold South Carolina Initial teaching certificates and who are employed as educators in eligible, non-regulated educational entities in this state. In this context, “non-regulated” means that the entity is not required to comply with State Board of Education regulations and guidelines for evaluating educator performance and effectiveness. Examples of eligible, non-regulated educational entities include South Carolina public charter schools that elect not to participate in the State Board of Education-approved process for evaluating teacher performance and effectiveness, state or regionally accredited private and parochial schools in South Carolina, and South Carolina institutions of higher education that have programs approved for teacher preparation by the State Board of Education.

1. In order to be eligible to advance from an initial certificate to a Limited Professional Certificate, the educator must be employed by an eligible, non-regulated educational entity in South Carolina and must have accrued a minimum total of three years of experience credit over the previous seven years in one or more of these entities. During the entirety of the qualifying time period, the educator must

(a) hold a valid South Carolina Initial teaching certificate,

(b) be employed as a teacher or a professional support specialist, such as a library media specialist, school guidance counselor, or other support professional, in an area in which the educator holds Initial certification, and

(c) successfully complete an annual performance evaluation process that is approved by the employing educational entity.

2. In order to activate the certificate advancement process (i.e., from Initial to Limited Professional), the educator must submit the following documents to the SCDE office that is responsible for educator certification:

(a) a request for change/action requesting advancement for the Limited Professional Certificate,

(b) official verification of experience,

(c) verification of successful annual performance evaluations from each employing entity, and

(d) a recommendation for the Limited Professional Certificate signed by the head of the educational entity in which the educator is employed at the time the certificate is requested.

3. All Limited Professional Certificates are valid for a period of five years.

4. Requirements for renewing Limited Professional Certificates, including the provisions for expired certificates, are the same as those for Professional Certificates, as specified in State Board of Education Regulation 43-55 (Renewal of Credentials).

5. An educator who holds a valid Limited Professional Certificate and who applies for a position as a teacher or a professional support specialist in a “regulated” South Carolina public school is eligible for employment at the annual-contract level. Once employed under an annual contract, the teacher is subject to all requirements and sanctions for annual-contract teachers, as set forth in the applicable state statutes, regulations, and guidelines. Upon successful completion of the State Board of Education-approved process for evaluating teaching performance and effectiveness, the educator is eligible to move from a Limited Professional Certificate to a Professional Certificate and to be employed under a continuing contract.

~~G. Temporary Certificate~~

~~A temporary certificate is valid for a period of one year. Full certification (initial or professional) may be obtained when the educator submits verification of the required course work, required practicum, and/or required certification examination scores. Due to the requirements for highly qualified teachers mandated by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. Section 6301 *et seq.* (2002), the following types of temporary certificates may be issued only until June 30, 2006, and will be limited or phased out after that date.~~

~~1. Temporary Certificate for Out-of-State Certified Teacher~~

~~(a) Any individual who holds a valid teaching certificate from another state but does not meet one or more of South Carolina's certification requirements is eligible for a temporary certificate for up to one year. Temporary certificates issued to out-of-state certified teachers are issued only for the academic year in which they are requested and expire June 30.~~

~~(b) After June 30, 2006, temporary certificates may no longer be issued to teachers who teach core academic subjects as specified by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government,~~

~~economics, history, geography, and the arts. Temporary certificates may be issued, however, in other instructional or instructional support fields not considered to be core content subjects under No Child Left Behind.~~

~~2. Transitional Certificate~~

~~Any individual who has completed a teacher preparation program but has not submitted a passing score on the required certification examination(s) will be eligible for a transitional certificate for up to one year. Transitional certificates are issued only at the request of the employing school district. The employing district must apply for a transitional certificate no later than thirty days after the date of assignment. Transitional certificates are issued only for the academic year in which they are requested and expire June 30. The transitional certificate will no longer be issued after June 30, 2006.~~

~~3. Out-of-Field Permit~~

~~(a) Any individual who holds a valid South Carolina temporary, professional, initial, alternative, graded, or warrant certificate and is assigned teaching duties for any amount of time in an area for which he or she is not appropriately certified is eligible to receive a permit to teach out-of-field. However, permits are not issued for school psychologists, speech-language therapists, and special subject educators. Out-of-field permits are issued only under the following conditions:~~

~~(i) The school district must request the out-of-field permit for its employee. The employing district must apply for a permit no later than thirty days after the date of assignment. Out-of-field permits are issued only for the academic year in which they are requested and expire June 30.~~

~~(ii) The individual for whom the permit is requested must hold a valid South Carolina teaching credential and have twelve semester hours of credit toward full certification in the area of preparation for which the permit is requested.~~

~~(b) Out-of-field permits may be renewed upon presentation of six semester hours of credit in the area for which the permit is issued. Once the teacher meets all the certification requirements, including the required certification examination(s), he or she may apply for a certificate in the new area.~~

~~(c) After June 30, 2006, out-of-field permits may no longer be issued to teachers who teach core academic subjects as specified by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, and the arts. Permits may be issued, however, in other instructional or instructional support fields not considered to be core content subject areas under No Child Left Behind.~~

~~4. Graded Certificate and Warrant~~

~~The State Board of Education discontinued the issuance of graded certificates on July 1, 1971, and the issuance of warrants in November 1976. Due to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 for highly qualified teachers, neither warrants nor graded certificates with less than a grade of A will be acceptable certificates for teaching in a South Carolina public school after June 30, 2006.~~

~~(a) Graded Certificate. To qualify for the professional certificate, an individual who currently holds a grade B, C, or D certificate must fulfill one of the following requirements:~~

~~(i) achieve the minimum required score on the required specialty area examination(s)~~

~~OR~~

~~(ii) add an area of certification to the initial graded certificate by meeting all requirements of the State Board of Education for that additional area, including a minimum qualifying score on the appropriate certification examinations(s) and verification of at least three years of teaching experience in the additional area.~~

~~(b) Warrant. Current warrant certification cannot be advanced beyond the bachelor's degree level or beyond four years of experience. Only a bachelor's degree level certification may be added to a warrant certification. To qualify for a professional certificate or to maintain a warrant certification (until June 30, 2006), the individual must~~

~~(i) earn the required six semester hours or the equivalent every five years, as stipulated in certificate renewal requirements, and~~

~~(ii) remove all certification deficiencies (specialty area examination(s) and/or course requirements) by meeting current certification requirements.~~

~~5. Special Subject Certificate~~

~~A Special Subject Certificate may be issued to an individual who qualifies under the guidelines established by the State Board of Education and must be requested by the employing school district. The certificate will be issued initially for one year but may be renewed annually provided the applicant submits the required score on the appropriate certification examination(s) in the content area in which he or she is teaching during the initial year of certification. After June 30, 2006, special subject certificates may no longer be issued to teachers who teach core academic subjects as specified by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. The core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, and the arts. Special subject certificates may be issued, however, in other instructional fields not considered to be core content subjects under No Child Left Behind.~~

G. Restricted Alternative Certificate

A Restricted Alternative Certificate (RAC) may be issued to a teacher who holds a valid South Carolina initial or professional teaching certificate, is assigned teaching duties for any amount of time in an area for which he or she is not appropriately certified, and teaches a core academic subject as specified by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. These core academic subjects are English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, world languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, and the arts. RACs are issued only under the following conditions:

1. The school district must request the RAC for its employee. The employing district must apply for the restricted certificate no later than thirty days after the date of assignment. RACS are issued only for the academic year in which they are requested and expire June 30.

2. The individual for whom the RAC is requested must hold a valid South Carolina teaching credential and have twelve semester hours of credit toward full certification in the area of preparation for which the certificate is requested. The individual must also meet content competency requirements prior to the issuance of the RAC.

3. RACs may be renewed twice upon presentation of six semester hours of credit in the area for which the certificate is issued. Once the teacher meets all the certification requirements, including any required certification examination(s), he or she may apply for a standard certificate in the new area.

H. Out-of-Field Permit

An out-of-field permit may be issued to an educator who holds a valid South Carolina initial or professional teaching certificate and is assigned teaching duties for any amount of time in an area for which he or she is not appropriately certified. Out-of-field permits may be issued to eligible classroom-based teachers for subject areas that are not defined as core academic subjects as specified in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and for the non-instructional areas of administration, library media specialist, and school guidance counselor. Out-of-field permits are not issued for the areas of school psychologist and speech-language therapist. Permits are issued only under the following conditions:

1. The school district must request the permit for its employee. The employing district must apply for a permit no later than thirty days after the date of assignment. Out-of-field permits are issued only for the academic year in which they are requested and expire June 30.

2. The individual for whom the permit is requested must hold a valid South Carolina teaching credential and have twelve semester hours of credit toward full certification in the area of preparation for which the certificate is requested.

3. The permit may be renewed upon presentation of six semester hours of credit in the area for which the certificate is issued. Once the educator meets all the certification requirements, including any required certification examination(s), he or she may apply for a standard certificate in the new area.

II. Levels of Credential Classification

A. Bachelor's degree: the educator must meet all criteria for an initial area of certification and have earned a bachelor's degree that meets State Board of Education regulations for teacher certification and program approval.

B. Bachelor's degree plus 18 hours: the educator must have 18 hours of graduate credit that he or she earns within seven years from the time the course work is started. Individuals who do not complete the requirements during the seven years must request that the college/university revalidate the course credits before the work can be submitted for credential advancement.

C. Master's degree: the educator must have earned a master's degree that meets State Board of Education regulations for teacher certification and program approval.

D. Master's degree plus 30 hours:

In order to advance to the level of master's degree plus 30 hours, the educator must fulfill either one of the following requirements:

1. The educator must earn 30 semester hours of graduate credit above the master's degree with 21 hours of the graduate credit in one area of concentration. These hours may or may not be in the teacher's initial area of certification. The course work must be completed within seven years from the time it was started. Individuals who do not complete the course work during the seven years must request that the college/university revalidate the course credits before the work can be submitted for credential advancement.

OR

2. The educator must earn an additional master's degree or specialist's degree that meets State Board of Education regulations for teacher certification and program approval.

E. Doctorate: the teacher must have earned a doctoral degree that meets the State Board of Education regulations for teacher certification and program approval.

III. Requirements for Credential Advancement

A. To advance his or her credential from one classification to another, the applicant must submit to the ~~Office of Teacher Certification~~ teacher certification office of the South Carolina Department of Education the following:

1. Written request to have the certificate advanced on the designated ~~Office of Teacher Certification~~ action form.

2. Documentation, including transcripts, that the State Board of Education requirements have been met for certificate advancement.

3. The specified fee, if such a fee is currently being charged.

B. The effective date of the credential advancement will be based on the following:

1. If the applicant becomes eligible for a revised level of credential between November 1 and April 30, the credential will become valid either from the date the teacher submits the completed application with all the necessary documentation or from the date on which the teacher completes the requirements for the credential, provided that the teacher files his or her application in the ~~Office of Teacher Certification~~ teacher certification office of the South Carolina Department of Education within forty-five calendar days after the date on which he or she completes the requirements.

2. If the applicant becomes eligible for a revised level of credential after April 30, the credential will become valid on July 1 of the calendar year in which he or she completes the existing requirements, provided that the completed application is submitted on or before November 1.

Fiscal Impact Statement:

None.

Statement of Rationale:

Amendments to Regulation 43-53 will clarify conditions in which an educator may request extensions of an initial teaching certificate; delete temporary, transitional, and graded certificate types that are no longer issued; delete the special subject certificate which is no longer issued; add the restricted alternative certificate which is allowed under No Child Left Behind; and modify language within the regulation referring to specific accreditation organizations or offices within the South Carolina Department of Education.