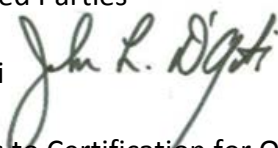




Deputy Commissioner
Office of Higher Education

June 29, 2016

To: District Superintendents
Superintendents of Public Schools
Administrators of Public Schools
Other Interested Parties

From: John L. D'Agati 

Subject: New Pathways to Certification for Out-of-State Teachers and Leaders

This memo is to inform you of the anticipated changes to the out-of-state endorsement requirements for teachers, school district leaders, school district business leaders, and school building leaders who are seeking New York State certification. For individuals that meet the criteria listed below, the Commissioner will endorse the out-of-state certificate or equivalent authorization and issue the individual an initial certificate to practice in New York. We would encourage you to actively explore opportunities to recruit exceptional teachers and leaders, particularly in those areas where you are experiencing shortages.

Teaching

If there is a certified teacher in another U.S. State or territory, and they meet the following requirements, they may qualify for an initial certificate in New York:

- have a **valid teaching certificate** that is equivalent to the title and type of the certificate sought, that has no limits or restrictions;
- meet the general certificate requirements, including citizenship, training related to child abuse identification/reporting, school violence prevention/intervention, harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention/intervention, and a criminal history check;
- have at least three **years of satisfactory experience** in a public school in a position requiring an initial or professional certificate within **five years** preceding the application date or equivalent experience; and have had **effective or higher evaluation ratings** in your three most recent years of employment; and
- hold a **bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or higher education institution that the Commissioner deems is substantially equivalent, with a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher in the program leading to the degree.**

School District Leader, School District Business Leader, School Building Leader

If there is a certified school district leader, school district business leader, or school building leader in another U.S. State or territory and they meet the following requirements, they may qualify for a school district/district business/building leader certificate in New York:

- have a **valid school district/district business/building leader certificate** that is equivalent to the title and type of certificate sought, that has no limits or restrictions;
- meet the general certificate requirements, including citizenship, training related to child abuse identification/reporting, school violence prevention/intervention, harassment, bullying and discrimination prevention/intervention, and a criminal history check;
- have at least **three years of satisfactory experience** in a public school in a position requiring an initial or professional certificate **within five years** preceding the application date or equivalent experience; and have had **effective or higher evaluation ratings** in your three most recent years of employment; and
- hold a **master's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution or equivalently approved higher education institution as determined by the Department, with a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher.**

In addition, please note that there previously was no out-of-state endorsement pathway for school building leaders in the Commissioner's Regulations. The proposed regulations establish such a pathway for school building leaders.

It is anticipated that the changes will be permanently adopted at the July 2016 Board of Regents meeting, thus allowing school districts to hire teachers and leaders from out of state who meet the requirements of the new endorsement pathways.

Additional information on the proposed changes to New York State regulations can be found on the Department's web site at <https://www.regents.nysed.gov/common/regents/files/416hed3.pdf>