



# NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2023

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

## BOARD OF REGENTS MAY ITEMS

**Student Teaching.** The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to revise several of the new student teaching requirements. The changes include:

- **Timeline.** The timeline for programs to implement the new student teaching requirements was extended by one year. As such, the new requirements now apply to candidates who enroll in a program in the Fall 2024 semester and later. Additionally, the corresponding revisions to the teaching experience requirement for the individual evaluation pathway to certification are effective for candidates who apply for a certificate on or after September 1, 2028.
- **Length of Student Teaching.** The unit of measurement for the length of the student teaching experience was changed from “at least a full semester of at least 14 weeks in length, full-time” to “at least 70 school days, or its equivalent.” By converting the measurement from weeks to days, and removing the “full-time” requirement, institutions would have greater flexibility to design placements that fit their academic calendar.
- **Multiple Certificates.** Candidates pursuing more than one certificate title will complete placements of at least 35 school days for each certificate title, instead of two placements of at least seven weeks or one placement of at least 14 weeks.
- **Full-time Status.** The requirement that candidates must be credited with at least the number of semester hours required to obtain full-time status at the institution during the student teaching experience or residency was removed.
- **Library Media Specialist Programs.** Library media specialist candidates were required to complete two practica in elementary and secondary schools. For the current student teaching requirements, candidates can now complete one practicum and have the combined field experiences and practicum be in both elementary and secondary schools. The requirement of two practica was also removed in the new student teaching requirements, allowing a practicum to be in one type of setting if desired or needed.
- **Limited Exemption.** The limited exemption is now available for eligible candidates who are enrolled in a graduate teacher preparation program. With the limited exemption, eligible candidates complete at least 50 clock hours of student teaching or practica (unless otherwise prescribed) in lieu of the clinical experience clock-hour requirement and the length of the student teaching experience. The limited exemption eligibility requirements are outlined for each program on the [Core Requirements webpage](#).

**Substitute Teachers.** School districts and BOCES have requested the continuation of the current substitute teaching flexibility. The flexibility permits substitute teachers who do not hold a valid teaching certificate and are not working towards certification, but hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, to be employed by the school district or BOCES beyond the 40-day limit under certain conditions. Given the successful implementation of this

flexibility, the Department [proposed a regulatory amendment](#) to remove the end date for this provision that has been in effect since July 27, 2016. By no longer having an end date, school districts and BOCES may continue to address persistent teacher shortages and plan for their staffing needs for the upcoming school year with certainty. Additionally, the proposed amendment would apply to all substitute teachers. Public comments on the proposal can be submitted to [oheregcomments@nysed.gov](mailto:oheregcomments@nysed.gov) through July 31, 2023.

**Incidental Teaching.** The Board of Regents [adopted an emergency rule](#) to extend the current incidental teaching flexibility through the 2023-2024 school year. Through incidental teaching, certified teachers can teach a subject not covered by their certificate when no certified or qualified teachers are available after extensive and documented recruitment. Public comments on the proposal can be submitted to [oheregcomments@nysed.gov](mailto:oheregcomments@nysed.gov) through July 31, 2023.

**Reciprocity.** The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to streamline the “Endorsement of a Certificate” (“endorsement”) pathway and “Completion of a Comparable Educator Program in Another U.S. State” pathway to certification, including giving the Department more flexibility in determining which certificates from another state could be considered comparable to a New York State certificate and removing the time period during which candidates must complete their three years of experience for the endorsement pathway.

## REMINDERS FOR TEACHER AND SCHOOL BUILDING LEADER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

**Teacher Performance Assessment Submission Process.** Registered teacher preparation programs must develop or choose a teacher performance assessment (TPA) that meets the criteria in the [TPA definition](#) and integrate the assessment into the candidates’ student teaching, practicum, or similar clinical experience by September 1, 2023. The [June 2022 memo](#) describes the process for institutions to submit documents to demonstrate that they meet the TPA requirement. The submission process includes sending a completed Statement of Assurance form and a representative sample of TPAs to the Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE), as outlined in the memo, by **July 1, 2023**.

**Special Application for School Building Leader Programs to Show Alignment with the PSELs.** All New York State registered school building leader (SBL) preparation programs must be aligned with the [Professional Standards for Educational Leaders \(PSELs\)](#) by September 1, 2023. The Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) has posted a special [application](#) where institutions with registered SBL programs and combined SBL/School District Leader (SDL) programs can show how their program(s) are aligned with the PSELs. The completed “Special Application to Revise a Registered Program Leading to School Building Leader Certification or School Building/School District Leader Certification” must be submitted to OCUE at [ocueedapps@nysed.gov](mailto:ocueedapps@nysed.gov) by **July 1, 2023**.

## NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMINATIONS (NYSTCE) TEST DEVELOPMENT

The revised Multi-Subject: Teachers of Early Childhood (Birth-Grade 2) – Part Two: Mathematics test (246) became operational on May 22, 2023. The [study guide](#) for Part Two has been updated to include some additional sample selected-response questions. Additional information about the test is available on the [NYSTCE website](#).

## DISTANCE EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY EXTENDED

A [memo](#) was recently sent to the Chief Executive Officers of Higher Education Institutions in New York State to advise the State's colleges and universities that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) is extending the current distance education flexibility (see previous memo from [April 2022](#)) until the end of the 2023-2024 academic year. This flexibility was granted during the COVID-19 pandemic. This extension permits institutions of higher education to continue to offer programs through distance education during the 2023-2024 academic year prior to registering those programs in the distance education format.



In order to continue to advertise and offer programs through distance education beyond September 1, 2024, such programs must be registered in the distance education format. As a reminder, NYSED's long-standing policy has been to require registration in the distance education format when a major portion (i.e., fifty percent or more) of the requirements for a program can be completed through study delivered by distance education. In order to improve efficiencies without compromising our oversight responsibilities, NYSED will be revising its processes for reviewing and registering programs in the distance education format. An overview of the revised processes for general academic (non-licensure) programs, including those that lead to teacher, school leader, or pupil personnel services, is provided in the [May 2023 memo](#). Questions related to programs leading to teacher, school leader, or pupil personnel services certification should be directed to: [OCUEINFO@nysed.gov](mailto:OCUEINFO@nysed.gov).

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