



Nancy S. Grasmick  
State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: August 24, 2010

SUBJECT: COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3), Failure to Meet Requirements (AMEND)  
COMAR 13A.12.01.04E, Approved Professional Experience (AMEND)  
**APPROVAL**

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**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this item is to request your approval of proposed amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3), Failure to Meet Requirements, and COMAR 13A.12.01.04E, Approved Professional Experience.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In June 2009, the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) initiated a comprehensive review of those chapters of COMAR pertaining to certification, specifically, COMAR 13A.12.01 through COMAR 13A.12.05. The PSTEB directed staff to engage in a critical review of the chapters for consistency of regulatory language, alignment of regulations with existing practices, and potential changes. Staff compiled a preliminary list which categorized the changes into three areas: editorial changes, substantive changes which align with current practice requiring minimal discussion, and substantive changes which requiring considerable discussion among affected constituencies.

Staff convened work groups to study the potential changes. Based on the findings of the Work Groups, it was recommended that the existing regulations, namely, COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3), Failure to Meet Requirements, and COMAR 13A.12.01.04E, Approved Professional Experience did not merit substantive changes but rather changes in language for the purposes of clarification and alignment with current practice.

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Deletion of specified language in COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3) eliminates the apparent contradiction in the individual's ability to hold more than two Conditional Certificates under certain conditions. Addition of new language and deletion of existing language in COMAR 13A.12.01.04E clarifies that both the out-of-state certificate and the experience must be in the certification area being sought in Maryland.

These proposed changes were presented to the Directors of Human Resources at their January 21, 2010 meeting for discussion; they were in agreement with the proposed changes. The PSTEB voted to publish the proposed amendments at its meeting on May 6, 2010. Subsequently, you reviewed the proposal at your meeting on May 24-25, 2010 and determined that a Joint Conference Committee was not necessary prior to publication.

Copies of the proposed regulations as published in the *Maryland Register* on July 16, 2010 are attached. The period for public comment concluded on August 16, 2010; no comments were received. The amended regulations do not have any economic impact, nor is there any impact on individuals with disabilities. There is no corresponding federal standard for these proposed actions.

**SUMMARY:**

The proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3), Failure to Meet Requirements, eliminate contradiction in the existing regulation; proposed changes to COMAR 13A.12.01.04E, Approved Professional Experience, clarify existing regulatory language.

**ACTION:**

I am requesting approval of the amendments to COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3), Failure To Meet Requirements, and COMAR 13A.12.01.04E, Approved Professional Experience.

NSG: jhe

Attachments

## PROPOSED ACTION ON REGULATIONS

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(7) *Environment and Society.* The student shall analyze how the interactions of heredity, experience, learning and culture influence social decisions and social change.

(8) *Sustainability.* The student shall:

(a) Make decisions that demonstrate understanding of natural communities and the ecological, economic, political, and social systems of human communities; and

(b) Examine how their personal and collective actions affect the sustainability of these interrelated systems.

D. Each local school system shall establish a support system to enable teachers and administrators to engage in high quality professional development in content knowledge, instructional materials, and methodology related to environmental education.

E. *Student Participation.* All students shall have the opportunity to participate in the comprehensive environmental education program required by this regulation to meet their graduation requirement in environmental literacy.

### .02 Certification Procedures.

By September 1, 2015 and each 5 years after, each local school superintendent of schools shall certify to the State Superintendent of Schools that the instructional program in environmental education meets, at a minimum, the requirements set forth in Regulation .01 of this chapter.

NANCY S. GRASMICK  
State Superintendent of Schools

## Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION

### 13A.12.01 General Provisions

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 2-303(g), and 6-701—6-705,  
Annotated Code of Maryland

#### Notice of Proposed Action

[10-198-P]

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board proposes to amend Regulations .04 and .11 under COMAR 13A.12.01 General Provisions. This action was considered at the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board meeting on May 6, 2010.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to eliminate the apparent contradiction in an individual's ability to hold more than two Conditional Certificates under certain conditions under COMAR 13A.12.01.11A(3) and to add new language and delete existing language in COMAR 13A.12.01.04E to clarify that both the out-of-State certificate and the experience must be in the certification area being sought in Maryland.

#### Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

#### Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

#### Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

#### Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

#### Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Jean Satterfield, Assistant State Superintendent, Certification and Accreditation, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201, or call 410-767-0385, or email to

jsatterfield@msde.state.md.us, or fax to 410-333-8963. Comments will be accepted through August 16, 2010. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

#### Open Meeting

Final action on the proposal will be considered by the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board during a public meeting to be held on October 7, 2010, at 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

### .04 Options for Obtaining Initial Maryland Certification.

A. — D. (text unchanged)

E. Approved Professional Experience.

(1) The applicant shall:

(a) Present a valid professional state certificate and verification of at least 27 months of satisfactory school-related experience on the basis of which application is being made for a like or comparable Maryland certificate during the past 7 years in the certification area sought; and

(b) (text unchanged)

(2) The applicant shall:

(a) Present valid professional certification from a country other than the United States and verification of 27 months of satisfactory school-related experience on the basis of which application is being made for a like or comparable Maryland teaching certificate during the past 7 years in the certification area sought;

(b) — (c) (text unchanged)

F. — H. (text unchanged)

### .11 Renewal of Certificates.

A. General.

(1) — (2) (text unchanged)

(3) Failure to Meet Requirements. Failure to meet the requirements of this section results in loss of the professional certificate. [Subject to the limits set forth in §C of this regulation, the] The local school system may request a conditional certificate pursuant to Regulation .08 of this chapter for an employee who fails to meet the renewal requirements of the professional certificate.

(4) — (7) (text unchanged)

B. — D. (text unchanged)

NANCY S. GRASMICK  
State Superintendent of Schools

## Subtitle 12 CERTIFICATION

### 13A.12.02 Teachers

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 2-303(g), and 6-701—6-705,  
Annotated Code of Maryland

#### Notice of Proposed Action

[10-199-P]

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board proposes to adopt new Regulations .25 and .26 under COMAR 13A.12.02 Teachers. This action was considered at the May 6, 2010, meeting of the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board.

#### Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to ensure that individuals providing mathematics assistance to other teachers will have specific knowledge and skills aligned with national standards.

#### Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

#### Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.