Agency Name: Board of Education

Statutory Authority: 59-5-60(1), 59-25-110, 59-26-10 et seq., and Pub. L. No. 114-95

Document Number: 4699

Proposed in State Register Volume and Issue: 40/10

House Committee: Regulations and Administrative Procedures Committee

Senate Committee: Education Committee

120 Day Review Expiration Date for Automatic Approval 01/09/2018

Final in State Register Volume and Issue: 41/6

Status: Final

Subject: Credential Classification

History: 4699

By Date Action Description Jt. Res. No. Expiration Date

- 10/28/2016 Proposed Reg Published in SR

- 01/10/2017 Received by Lt. Gov & Speaker 05/10/2017

H 01/10/2017 Referred to Committee

S 01/10/2017 Referred to Committee

S 03/13/2017 Committee Requested Withdrawal

120 Day Period Tolled

- 03/15/2017 Withdrawn and Resubmitted 01/09/2018

S 03/30/2017 Resolution Introduced to Approve 602

S 05/19/2017 Approved by: Ratification No. 88

- 06/23/2017 Effective Date unless otherwise

provided for in the Regulation

Document No. 4699

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CHAPTER 43

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60(1), 59-25-110, 59-26-10 et seq., and Pub. L. No. 114-95

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; and modify language within the regulation to reflect requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). 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 July 22, 2016.

**Instructions:**

Entire regulation is to be replaced with the following text.

**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 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 or school district, provided that certificate renewal requirements, as specified in Reg.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 extended annually for an indefinite period at the request of the educational entity, provided that certificate renewal requirements, as specified in Reg.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 a national accreditation association with which the South Carolina Department of Education has a 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.

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. 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 PACE guidelines as adopted by the State Board of Education. Alternative certificates for PACE 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.

4. The alternative route certificate for Teachers of Tomorrow (ToT) under Regulation 43-51 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. Certification Permit

A one-year certification 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. Permits may be issued to classroom-based teachers and for the areas of administration, library media specialist, and school guidance counselor. Certification permits are not issued for the areas of school psychologist and speech-language therapist.

The South Carolina Department of Education has the authority to develop guidelines for the issuance of certification permits in accordance with the provisions of this regulation to include eligibility for the issuance of a certification permit, annual coursework requirements and progress necessary for renewal of the permit, and final requirements for attaining full certification in the permit area. Certification permits must be requested by the educator and his or her employing school or school district.

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 teacher certification office of the South Carolina Department of Education the following:

1. Written request to have the certificate advanced on the designated 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 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; modify language within the regulation to reflect requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); and modify language within the regulation referring to specific accreditation organizations or offices within the South Carolina Department of Education.