



Summary of June 2017 Board Regulation Changes:

Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (603 CMR 7.00)
Educator License Renewal (603 CMR 44.00)

Office of Educator Licensure

Licensure Call Center: 781-338-6600

Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-12pm & 2pm-5pm

Walk-in Welcome Center Service Counter

Hours: Monday-Friday

8:45am - 4:45pm

Introduction

On June 27, 2017, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to approve regulation changes impacting educator licensure, program approval and license renewal. Consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order 562 calling for a statewide regulatory review, the licensure changes are intended to streamline the regulations and licensure system, close loopholes, clarify certain provisions, and reduce regulatory burden. The Department began this work to streamline the regulations by creating a 17-member [Working Group for Streamlining Educator Licensure Regulations & Policies](#) which met in 2016 and discussed and vetted a series of proposals to streamline the regulations while operating within the existing statutory structure.

The regulations became official on July 28, 2017, with the publication by the Secretary of State's Office, and this summary is intended to provide an overview of the changes that were approved by the Board. This summary is not intended to represent all of the requirements necessary to receive a license or endorsement impacted by the change and only highlights what is new or has changed as a result of the new regulations. In some circumstances, an applicant may be able to be reviewed under these new regulations immediately and in other situations, the applicant will have until July 1, 2019, to comply with the regulations that were in effect prior to June 27, 2017.

We hope that these regulation changes have a positive impact on our educators, prospective educators and students by streamlining the licensure system yet maintaining the high standards that have resulted in Massachusetts schools leading the nation.

For questions about the regulations or licensure process, please contact the Licensure Call Center where a representative will be happy to assist you. The Call Center is open each business day from 9:00 a.m. – Noon and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Summary of Regulation Changes

603 CMR 7.00: Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval

Guidelines: All Guidelines identified in the regulations (603 CMR 7.00) will be issued by the Department and approved by the Commissioner following a period of public comment that shall be a minimum of 30 days.

Subject Matter Knowledge Requirements: In order for the Department to adequately maintain the subject matter knowledge (SMK) requirements which direct what should be included on the Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure (MTEL) exams and taught within approved educator preparation programs, the subject matter knowledge requirements will now be in guidelines rather than regulations.

Temporary License: The Temporary license will now be valid for one year of employment rather than one calendar year. Experienced educators from out-of-state will no longer have a Temporary license expire prior to gaining employment or in the middle of a school year. In addition, educators with three years of experience out-of-state now just need to possess a valid out of state license rather than an out of state license that is equivalent to a Massachusetts Initial license. Also, all applicants for the Temporary license must verify that they have a bachelor's degree.

Preliminary/Provisional license: To help alleviate some confusion over the Preliminary and Initial license, the Board voted to change the name of the Preliminary license to Provisional. In addition, the Board approved a change related to the validity period of the Provisional license. Effective July 1, 2019, the maximum amount of time that someone can be employed under a Provisional license will be five years. For example, under the "old" regulations, someone with Preliminary licenses in Biology (8-12), Chemistry (8-12) and Physics (8-12), could have been employed for up to 15 years, five years under each Preliminary license. As of July 1, 2019, an educator who holds one or more provisional license may be employed under these license(s) for no more than five years in total. The Department is in the process of developing guidelines to assist school districts and educators in understanding the validity period of a Provisional license.

For Provisional licenses including Elementary, Early Childhood and Moderate Disabilities, the Board eliminated the need for seminars or courses addressing the teaching of reading, teaching of mathematics and teaching of English Language Arts.

Initial license: To streamline the regulations, the Board approved a change to condense three approved program routes into one. The Department will include various program options within this program route in guidelines.

The revised regulations also change the terminology for renewing an Initial license to the Initial Extension and permits educators to receive an Extension at any point during their fifth year of employment rather than waiting until they have completed their fifth year.

Performance Assessment for Initial License: The Performance Review Program for Initial Licensure (PRPIL) is now available for all teacher licenses listed within 603 CMR 7.04(3) (a) and a recommendation to attend PRPIL can now be obtained from the principal, superintendent or assistant superintendent of the current school/district where the candidate is employed under the Provisional license in the role of the license sought. This change means that educators with a Provisional license in fields including Early Childhood, Elementary, Library, and Moderate Disabilities, who previously were prohibited from earning an Initial license via PRPIL, are now eligible to complete this approved route to an Initial license.

Professional license: As with the Initial license, the Board approved a change to condense several approved program routes into one and indicated that the Department will include all the various program options in guidelines.

Candidates from outside Massachusetts: Options for applicants prepared outside of Massachusetts have been streamlined and broadened. For example, one of the options to obtain licensure via the NASDTEC interstate agreement required possession of a license equivalent to our Initial license and three years of employment under such license during the previous seven years. The Board eliminated the requirement to have recent experience under the out-of-state license.

Also, a Panel Review for educators prepared outside of the United States is now in place for teacher and specialist teacher licenses.

In addition, Principal/Assistant Principal candidates from out of state who have less than one year of experience will be required to complete the Performance Assessment for Leaders (PAL). Please note that this will be required of candidates who have not completed the requirements for licensure by June 30, 2019.

Individual Licenses/Endorsements

Academically Advanced License becomes an Endorsement: Formerly a specialist teacher license, Academically Advanced is now an Endorsement for core academic educators licensed at the PreK-8 grade level. Individuals who hold an Academically Advanced Specialist Teacher license are not eligible to receive the Academically Advanced Endorsement but will be able to advance, extend and/or renew their Academically Advanced license. However, individuals who obtain the Academically Advanced Endorsement may seek the Academically Advanced Specialist Teacher license as long as they apply and qualify by June 30, 2019 (in accordance with CMR 7:15 (14) (h)).

Digital Literacy/Computer Science (5-12): This is a new license developed primarily to teach computer science at the secondary level. The Office of Educator Licensure will not be able to issue licenses in this field until the subject matter knowledge requirements and guidelines are developed and approved.

Instructional Technology Teacher license becomes an Instructional Technology Specialist Teacher license: With the creation of the Digital Literacy/Computer Science license, the Board also approved a change to make Instructional Technology a specialist teacher license. The move to a specialist teacher license creates some difference in functionality from a teacher license. Those that have the teacher license can teach instructional technology and coach teachers about using technology in their classroom

to enrich and enhance their curriculum but those with the specialist teacher license will be limited to coaching, unless the 20% rule is used to permit them to work outside of their area for 20% of their time. Given the change in functionality of the license, the Department recommends the following:

- An applicant who holds a Preliminary or Initial Instructional Technology teacher license should maintain that license as they advance to the next stage of licensure.
- An applicant who holds the Instructional Technology Specialist Teacher license who wants to teach technology for greater than 20% of his or her time should add the Digital Literacy/Computer Science license.

Supervisor/Director (Core areas): Obtaining a core academic license as a Supervisor/Director, for example, Supervisor/Director (Core Mathematics) no longer requires a minimum of 18 graduate credits in the content area of the license sought, in this case mathematics. Instead, applicants for Supervisor/Director licenses in core areas must possess at least an Initial prerequisite license and three years of experience in the role of the license.

School Nurse: In order to obtain a Professional license, a school nurse must possess and maintain a valid license to practice as a Registered Nurse in the Commonwealth.

Autism Endorsement: Expands the eligibility to earn the Autism Endorsement to any licensed teacher who has at least three credits related to special education.

Licenses that do not Appear in the Updated Regulations

To accommodate applicant's attempting to earn or advance licenses between July 28, 2017, and June 30, 2019, the drop down menu of licenses appearing in ELAR will include the "ancestor" licenses noted below. Individuals who apply and complete all requirements for these licenses prior to July 1, 2019, may qualify for licensure by meeting licensure requirements in effect prior to June 27, 2017 (as indicated in 603 CMR 7.15(14) (h)).

Individuals attempting to earn one of these licenses for the first time, as opposed to advancing from Provisional to Initial or Initial to Professional who cannot complete the requirements prior to July 1, 2019, may submit a signed request to change their application to the "successor" credential or any other credential offered by ESE.

Individuals attempting to advance their license(s) who do not complete the requirements prior to July 1, 2019, may be able to advance their license(s) through the Commissioner's Determination process.

Please be advised that any Provisional "ancestor" license(s) that are advanced to an Initial "successor" license, will lead to the expiration of the "ancestor" license(s) when the combined grade levels in each are identical. For example:

- A Provisional Earth Science 8-12 license advanced to the Initial Earth and Space Science (8-12) license will lead to the expiration of the Provisional Earth Science (8-12) license.

- A Provisional History (5-8) license accompanied by a Provisional History (8-12) license that is advanced to the Initial History (5-12) license will lead to the expiration of the Provisional History (5-8) and (8-12) licenses.

Ancestor(s)	Successor(s)
Academically Advanced Teacher Specialist (PreK-8)	Academically Advanced Endorsement (PreK-8)
Biology (5-8)	Biology (8-12)
Chemistry (5-8)	Chemistry (8-12)
Early Childhood: Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Prek-2)	Early Childhood (Prek-2)
Earth Science (5-8)	Earth & Space Science (8-12)
English (5-8) & (8-12)	English (5-12)
History (5-8) & (8-12)	History (5-12)
Instructional Technology Teacher (All)	Instructional Technology Specialist Teacher (All)
Physics (5-8)	Physics (8-12)
Political Science/Political Philosophy (5-8) & (8-12)	Social Science (5-12)
School Guidance Counselor (PreK-8)	School Counselor (Prek-8)
School Guidance Counselor (5-12)	School Counselor (5-12)
School Principal/Assistant School Principal (Prek-6)	School Principal/Assistant School Principal (Prek-8)
School Principal/Assistant School Principal (5-8)	School Principal/Assistant School Principal (Prek-8) or (5-12)
School Principal/Assistant School Principal (9-12)	School Principal/Assistant School Principal (5-12)

Fields that Serve Same Function

To accommodate applicant’s attempting to earn or advance licenses between July 28, 2017, and June 30, 2019, the drop down menu of licenses appearing in ELAR will include some fields that serve the exact same function. These fields are noted below. Per ESE policy, an educator shall not be issued a new credential that serves in the same function as a credential(s) already held. In order to receive a new credential, the credential an educator is seeking must permit the educator to perform new functions. Therefore, individuals should avoid applying for another credential of the same type that serves the same function at the same grade level as a credential currently held or applied for. Examples:

- An applicant that holds or already applied for a Provisional Early Childhood: Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Prek-2) license should not apply for a Provisional Early Childhood (Prek-2) license.
- An applicant that holds or already applied for an Initial Political Science/Political Philosophy (5-8) and (8-12) license should not apply for an Initial Social Science 5-12 license.

In addition, applicants who hold the Early Childhood: Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Prek-2) license are encouraged to apply for the Early Childhood: Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Prek-2) when attempting to advance to Initial or Professional licensure. Similarly, applicants who hold the Early Childhood (Prek-2) license should apply for the Early Childhood (Prek-2) when attempting to advance to Initial or Professional licensure. Applications that are received and not aligned with the appropriate field will be updated accordingly.

Please be advised that any Provisional “ancestor” license(s) advanced to an Initial “successor” license, will lead to the expiration of the “ancestor” license(s) when the combined grade levels in each are identical.

Ancestor(s)	Successor(s)
Early Childhood: Teacher of Students With and Without Disabilities (Prek-2)	Early Childhood (Prek-2)
Earth Science (8-12)	Earth and Space Science (8-12)
Political Science/Political Philosophy (5-8) & (8-12) and/or Social Studies (5-9) & (9-12)	Social Science (5-12)
School Guidance Counselor (Prek-8)	School Counselor (Prek-8)
School Guidance Counselor (5-12)	School Counselor (5-12)

Supervisor of Attendance: The Department no longer issues a Supervisor of Attendance certificate. Supervisor of Attendance certificates previously issued are valid for life and are not subject to renewal. To be employed as a Supervisor of Attendance, individuals should either hold a Supervisor of Attendance certificate or satisfy the following conditions:

1. Demonstration of knowledge of the laws concerning school attendance and of services available to children with attendance problems.
2. Possession of one of the following:
 - i. Two years of experience working as a parole, probation or law enforcement official whose major responsibilities have been working with juveniles and/or in home investigations.
 - ii. A minimum of eighteen graduate credits in psychology, school counseling or social work at an accredited college.
 - iii. An Initial or Professional Massachusetts license as a School Counselor, School Psychologist, School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor.
 - iv. An Initial or Professional Massachusetts administrator license with at least one course in psychology, school counseling and/or social work at an accredited college.
 - v. A combination of experience working with school-age children in a school setting or a non-school setting deemed acceptable by the Department and education in psychology, guidance and/or social work at an accredited college.

Summary of Regulation Changes

603 CMR 44.00: Regulations for Educator Licensure Renewal

As of July 28, 2017, the required distribution of Professional Development Points (PDPs) for all academic educators renewing a Primary area license has been amended as stated in the regulations (CMR 603 44.05).

Educators renewing a **Primary area license** on or after July 28, 2017, must earn a minimum of 150 Professional Development Points (PDPs). Here is the breakdown:

- (a) At least 15 PDPs in content (subject matter knowledge)
- (b) At least 15 PDPs in pedagogy (professional skills and knowledge)
- (c) At least 15 PDPs related to Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) or English as a Second Language (ESL)
- (d) At least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and the instruction of students with diverse learning styles
- (e) The remaining required 90 PDPs may be earned through any combination of “elective” activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, additional content, or pedagogy.

Point Distribution as of July 1, 2016 Primary Area	New Point Distribution as of July 28, 2017 Primary Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 90 PDPs in the content area of the license or in pedagogy, with no less than 60 PDPs in or related to the content area of the educator's Primary area license 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs in content
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs related to Sheltered English Immersion or English as a Second Language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs related to Sheltered English Immersion or English as a Second Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and the instruction of students with diverse learning styles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs related to training in strategies for effective schooling for students with disabilities and the instruction of students with diverse learning styles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining required 30 PDPs may be earned through either “elective” activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, or additional content, and/or pedagogy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 15 PDPs in pedagogy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The remaining required 90 PDPs may be earned through any combination of “elective” activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, additional content, or pedagogy

The renewal of each **Additional license(s)** will require 30 PDPs. Of the 30, at least 15 PDPs must be in the content area of the license. The remaining 15 PDPs may be earned through either “elective” activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, or additional content, pedagogy. Please note that renewing an invalid additional license requires 150 PDPs.

Point Distribution as of July 1, 2016 Additional Area	New Point Distribution as of July 28, 2017 Additional Area
A minimum of 30 PDPs in content	A minimum of 30 PDPs. Of the 30, at least 15 PDPs in content is required. The remaining 15 PDPs may be earned through either “elective” activities that address other educational issues and topics that improve student learning, additional content, or pedagogy.