

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

Explanation: Matter in Italics is new; matter in brackets [] is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: NRS 391.019

Section 1. NAC 391 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 391.XXX Special Qualifications License: License requirements; Department duties; Employer responsibilities

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a special qualifications license to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the applicant:

(a) Holds a master's or doctoral degree from a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited in a field of study for which the applicant will provide classroom instruction; and

(b) Has at least two (2) years of teaching experience at a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited in a field of study for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom and at least three (3) years of experience working in that field; or

(c) Has at least five (5) years of experience working in a field of study for which the applicant will provide instruction in a classroom.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant for a special qualifications license must:

(a) Pass each subject matter competency test required by NAC 391.036 for the specific subject or subjects in which the applicant will provide instruction; or

(b) Hold a valid license issued by a professional licensing board of any state that is directly related to the subject area of the master's or doctoral degree and the specific subject or subjects in which the applicant will provide instruction.

(1) The Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of professional licensing boards by specific subject areas that will meet the requirement of Subsection 2 (b).

3. The Department of Education shall develop and maintain a list of subject area endorsements to include authorized grade levels of the endorsement that may be applied to a special qualifications license based upon the field of study of the applicant's master's or doctoral degree and work experience. The subject areas for which endorsements may be issued are:

- (a) English, including reading, composition and writing;*
- (b) Mathematics;*
- (c) Science;*
- (d) Social studies, including history, geography, economics and government;*
- (e) Arts and humanities, including, but not limited to, music, theater and visual arts;*
- (f) Computer education and technology;*
- (g) Health;*
- (h) Physical Education, including dance;*
- (i) Foreign language; and*
- (j) Career and technical education.*

4. The endorsement(s) placed on a special qualifications license authorizes the holder to teach only in the grades and subject area designated on the license.

5. A school district or private school that is licensed pursuant to Chapter 394 of NRS that employs a person holding a special qualifications license must:

- (a) Provide to the holder of the special qualifications license at least 120 hours of training and orientation before such a person may begin teaching;*
- (b) Assign an unconditionally licensed teacher to provide assistance, guidance and training to the holder of the special qualifications license during the initial three years of teaching with the license; and*
- (c) Assist the applicant in the development of an individualized professional development plan to be carried out during the initial three years of teaching with the license.*

6. A special qualifications license is valid for 3 years and may be renewed in accordance with the regulations of the Commission.

(a) The holder of a special qualifications license must show evidence of professional growth in the area of endorsement during the term of the license in order to renew the license.

Section 2. NAC 391 is hereby amended to read as follows:

NAC 391.XXX Alternate Special Qualifications License: License requirements.

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue an alternate special qualifications license to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent of Public Instruction that the applicant:

(a) Holds a master's or doctoral degree from a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited in a field of study for which the applicant will provide classroom instruction;

(b) Is not licensed to teach public school in another state;

(c) Has at least five (5) years of teaching experience with satisfactory evaluations at a school that is accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency; and

(d) Has participated in a program of student teaching or mentoring.

(1) If proof of participation in student teaching or mentoring can not be provided by the applicant, a provision shall be placed on the license that will require participation in a mentoring program for the first year of employment as a teacher with a Nevada school district or charter school.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant for an alternate special qualifications license must:

(a) Pass each test required by NAC 391.036 for the field of study in which the applicant will provide instruction.

(1) An applicant shall be exempt from each test required by NAC 391.036 if the applicant has successfully passed the test or equivalent test in another state.

3. The grade level and subject area(s) approved for an alternate special qualifications license issued by the superintendent of public instruction shall be based on the equivalent grade level and subject area in which the teaching experience was documented as part of Subsection 1 (c).

4. An alternate special qualifications license authorizes the holder to teach only in the grades and subject area designated on the license.

5. An alternate special qualifications license is valid for 3 years and may be renewed in accordance with the regulations of the Commission.