

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

LCB File No. R115-11

January 10, 2012

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~[omitted material]~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§1-3, 5 and 6, NRS 391.019; §§4, 7-12, NRS 391.019 and 391.032.

A REGULATION relating to educational personnel; prescribing the requirements for certain institutions to be recognized as qualified providers by the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to offer a program for the alternative route to licensure for teachers and administrators in this State; expanding the types of experience which may be substituted for student teaching experience; revising provisions governing the issuance of certain conditional licenses and endorsements; revising provisions governing the qualifications for a renewable license issued pursuant to a nontraditional training program; repealing certain provisions relating to conditional licenses and endorsements; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. An institution of higher education or any other provider that operates independently of an institution of higher education that wishes to offer a program for an alternative route for the licensure of teachers and administrators in this State must apply to the Commission on a form prescribed by the Department for approval to become a qualified provider of such a program. The application must include, without limitation:

- (a) The name and location of the applicant;*
- (b) The name of the program;*
- (c) If the applicant is accredited, the name of the regional accrediting body and the accreditation status of the applicant;*

- (d) If the applicant is not accredited, three letters of reference;*
- (e) A description of the budget for the program;*
- (f) The areas of licensure for which the applicant will offer the program;*
- (g) A description of the program, which must include, without limitation:
 - (1) The way in which the elements of the program will comply with the requirements of this chapter and chapter 391 of NRS;*
 - (2) The application and review process for enrollment in the program, including, without limitation, a copy of all forms that will be used in the process; and*
 - (3) The supervised, school-based experiences the applicant will provide as required by NRS 391.019, including, without limitation:
 - (I) The name of each school and school district that will participate;*
 - (II) The length of time a student will be required to participate in the supervised, school-based experience;*
 - (III) The manner by which students will be mentored and evaluated during the supervised, school-based experience;*
 - (IV) How the supervised, school-based experience will promote the effectiveness of teachers; and*
 - (V) A copy of all forms that will be used for the supervised, school-based experience process;***
- (h) A list of all staff members for the program, the roles and responsibilities of each person and his or her credentials;*
- (i) A statement of the estimated time it will take a student enrolled in the program to complete the program;*

(j) A description of the manner by which the applicant will evaluate the success or failure of each student enrolled in the program and track the progress of each such person including a copy of all forms that will be used for the evaluation and tracking;

(k) A description of how the applicant will evaluate the success of the program for an alternative route to licensure, which must include the information required for the evaluation pursuant to NRS 391.039; and

(l) Any other information required by the Department or the Commission.

2. Upon receipt of an application for approval as a qualified provider, the Commission will appoint a review team to review the application. The review team shall:

(a) Examine the application;

(b) Decide whether to recommend that the Commission grant its approval of the application; and

(c) Submit its recommendation to the Commission.

3. The Commission will review the recommendation from the review team submitted pursuant to subsection 2 and provide to the applicant written notice of its approval or denial. If the Commission denies an application, the applicant may correct any deficiencies identified in the notice of denial and resubmit the application to the Commission.

4. Each qualified provider must be evaluated on an annual basis pursuant to NRS 391.039. The Department shall:

(a) Present the results of the evaluation to the Commission; and

(b) After the results have been presented to the Commission, post the evaluation on the Department's Internet website.

5. Each qualified provider shall cooperate with the Commission and the Department in the evaluation of the effectiveness of this section and NAC 391.057.

Sec. 2. NAC 391.010 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.010 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Board” means the State Board of Education.
2. “Commission” means the Commission on Professional Standards in Education.
3. “Department” means the Department of Education.
4. “Endorsement” means a specific area of preparation within a general license that is issued by the Department.
5. “Field experience” means supervised experience working in a placement in which a person:
 - (a) Works with pupils with disabilities; and
 - (b) Demonstrates competency in the assessment of such pupils, educational planning, curriculum, methods of instruction, management of the classroom, working with parents and collaborating with other professionals.
6. “Initial license” means an elementary, secondary, provisional or special license, a license to teach special education, or a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, issued to a teacher or other educational personnel:
 - (a) For the first time; or
 - (b) Who held a license that expired or was suspended or revoked by the Board.

7. “Qualified provider” means an institution of higher education or any other institution that operates independently of an institution of higher education which has been approved by

the Commission to offer a program for an alternative route to licensure in this State pursuant to section 1 of this regulation.

Sec. 3. NAC 391.042 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.042 An applicant for an initial license for which student teaching experience is required may substitute in place of such experience:

1. Three years of teaching experience if:

(a) Each public or private school in which the teaching experience occurred was licensed by the state or accredited or certified by a regional or national association for private schools;

(b) For each year of teaching experience, the applicant taught at the appropriate grade level in a full-time capacity;

(c) The applicant held a bachelor's degree or higher during each year of teaching experience;

(d) The applicant was eligible for reemployment in the school district or school in which the teaching experience occurred;

(e) The area of endorsement, degree level and grade level of the license being applied for are consistent with the teaching experience completed by the applicant; and

(f) The teaching experience completed by the applicant is verified by the superintendent of the school district or the principal of the school in which the experience occurred.

2. A paid or unpaid supervised internship if:

(a) The internship was taken as part of a course of study at a regionally accredited college or university;

(b) The applicant earned a number of semester hours of credit for completing the internship that is equivalent to the number of semester hours of student teaching required for the license; and

(c) The internship was at a grade level appropriate to the license being sought.

3. A license or certificate to teach that was issued by another state if:

(a) Student teaching was required as a condition of obtaining the license or certificate; and

(b) The applicant fulfilled that requirement.

4. The supervised, school-based experience provided by a qualified provider for the completion of a program for an alternative route to licensure.

Sec. 4. NAC 391.057 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.057 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a conditional license to teach elementary education, a conditional license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education, a conditional license to teach secondary education , ***a conditional license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a specific area described in subsection 4*** or a conditional license to teach ***special education to*** pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection ~~9~~ **5** 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 bachelor's degree from a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited;

~~and~~

(b) Passed the competency test in basic reading, writing and mathematics that is required by NAC 391.036 or is eligible for an exemption from that test ~~;~~;

(c) Submits proof that the applicant has been accepted by a qualified provider for enrollment in a program for an alternative route to licensure; and

(d) Complies with the instructional and training policies and procedures of the qualified provider.

2. In addition to the requirements of subsection 1, an applicant for a conditional license ~~;~~

~~—(a) To teach elementary education, other than to teach pupils in a category described in subsection 9, must, before beginning his or her employment assignment as a teacher, have earned at least 9 semester hours of credit in pedagogically related courses that are acceptable for elementary education licensure from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution.~~

~~—(b) To~~ **to** teach secondary education ~~;~~ **or to teach prekindergarten through grade 12 in a specific area described in subsection 4,** other than **an applicant** to teach pupils in a category described in subsection ~~9;~~ **5,** must ~~:~~

~~—(1) Have declared~~ **either:**

(a) Hold a major in the applicant's desired area of licensure; or

~~;(2)~~ **(b) Pass** **[a]** **each** competency test ~~[which has been approved]~~ **required** by the Commission in the subject matter of the area for which the applicant ~~[will be employed to teach]~~ **is seeking a conditional license** or provide to the Department proof that he or she is eligible for an exemption from that test . ~~[and, before beginning his or her employment assignment as a teacher, have earned at least 3 semester hours of credit in pedagogically related courses that are acceptable for secondary education licensure from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution.~~

~~—(c) To teach pupils in a program of early childhood education must, before beginning his or her employment assignment as a teacher, have earned at least 9 semester hours of credit in pedagogically related courses that are acceptable for early childhood education licensure from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution.~~

~~—(d) To teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9 must, before beginning his or her employment assignment as a teacher, have earned at least 9~~

~~semester hours of credit in pedagogically related courses that are acceptable for special education licensure from a regionally accredited postsecondary institution.]~~

3. A conditional license ~~[to teach elementary education, to teach a program of early childhood education, to teach secondary education or to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9:]~~ *issued pursuant to this section:*

(a) Authorizes the holder of the license to teach in a county school district, a charter school or a private school ; ~~[that is licensed pursuant to chapter 394 of NRS, if the school district, charter school or private school has received the approval of the Department to hire the holder of the license pursuant to NAC 391.058;]~~

(b) Becomes valid on the date on which the holder of the license ~~[initially enters into a contract with a school district, charter school or private school pursuant to NAC 391.058;]~~ *satisfies all the requirements of subsection 1;*

(c) ~~[Hs]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsections 6 and 7, is* valid for ~~[3]~~ *2* years; and

(d) Is not renewable.

4. ~~[A person who holds a conditional license to teach elementary education shall provide to the school district, charter school or private school with whom he or she is employed proof that the person has completed:~~

~~—(a) Within 1 year after he or she begins employment, at least 6 semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach elementary education, excluding any credit that he or she has received for student teaching; and~~

~~—(b) Within 2 years after he or she begins employment, at least 6 additional semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach elementary education, excluding any credit that he or she has received for student teaching.~~

~~—5.— A person who holds a conditional license to teach secondary education shall provide to the school district, charter school or private school with whom he or she is employed proof that the person has completed:~~

~~—(a) Within 1 year after he or she begins employment, at least 6 semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach secondary education, excluding any credit that he or she has received for student teaching; and~~

~~—(b) Within 2 years after he or she begins employment, at least 6 additional semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach secondary education, excluding any credit that he or she has received for student teaching.~~

~~—6.— A person who holds a conditional license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9 shall provide to the school district, charter school or private school with whom he or she is employed proof that the person has completed:~~

~~—(a) Within 1 year after he or she begins employment, at least 6 semester hours of credit, excluding any credit earned for student teaching, which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9; and~~

~~—(b) Within 2 years after he or she begins employment, at least 12 additional semester hours of credit, excluding any credit earned for student teaching, which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9.~~

~~—7.— A person who holds a conditional license to teach a program of early childhood education shall provide to the school district, charter school or private school with whom he or she is employed proof that the person has completed:~~

~~—(a) Within 1 year after he or she begins employment, at least 6 semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach a program of early childhood education, excluding any credit he or she has received for student teaching; and~~

~~—(b) Within 2 years after he or she begins employment, at least 9 additional semester hours of credit which is required for the issuance of an initial license to teach a program of early childhood education, excluding any credit he or she has received for student teaching.~~

~~—8.—A person who holds a conditional license must complete the requirements for the issuance of an initial license to teach elementary education, to teach a program of early childhood education, to teach secondary education or to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 9 within the 3 years that the person's conditional license is valid. The school district, charter school or private school shall submit to the Department evidence of at least five evaluations issued pursuant to NRS 391.3125 which indicate that the person's performance has been satisfactory and verification of 3 years of the person's teaching experience under contract with the school district, charter school or private school in the appropriate area. The holder of the conditional license shall complete 3 years of teaching and is not required to complete the 8 semester hours of supervised teaching otherwise required for the issuance of an initial license. The holder of a conditional license may not be issued a license to teach until he or she has completed 3 years of teaching under contract with a school district, charter school or private school.~~

~~—9.] *The specific areas for which the Superintendent of Public Instruction may issue a conditional license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 include, without limitation:*~~

~~(a) *Music;*~~

(b) Art;

(c) Physical education; and

(d) Any other specific area approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

5. The categories for which the Superintendent of Public Instruction may issue a conditional license to teach *special education to* pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 are:

(a) Hearing impairments;

(b) Specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, orthopedic impairments, health impairments or traumatic brain injuries;

(c) Intellectual disabilities and moderate to intense needs for assistance and intervention;

(d) Pupils who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;

(e) Adapted physical education to pupils who have disabilities;

(f) Speech and language impairments;

(g) Autism; or

(h) Visual impairments.

6. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may delay the expiration of a conditional license issued pursuant to this section for not more than 1 year if the holder of the conditional license submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant has experienced an illness, disability or undue hardship which prevented the applicant from completing the program for an alternative route to licensure within 2 years.

7. A conditional license issued pursuant to this section is automatically revoked if the holder of the conditional license withdraws from or is no longer enrolled in a program for an alternative route to licensure.

8. A person who is issued a conditional license pursuant to this section may apply for an initial license to teach elementary education, to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education, to teach secondary education, to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a specific area described in subsection 4 or to teach special education to pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 in a category described in subsection 5, as applicable, if the applicant:

(a) Successfully completes the education and training required by the qualified provider for the program for an alternative route to licensure, including, without limitation, the supervised, school-based experience provided by the qualified provider:

(1) Within 2 years; or

(2) Within 3 years if the person was granted a delay from the expiration of the conditional license pursuant to subsection 6;

(b) Satisfies the requirements for initial licensure pursuant to NAC 391.045; and

(c) Pays the appropriate fee.

Sec. 5. NAC 391.060 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.060 1. Upon application, the Department will issue a license for the specified number of years to a person with:

(a) A bachelor's degree or less, for 5 years.

(b) A master's degree and 3 years of verified teaching experience, for 6 years.

(c) A specialist's degree and 3 years of verified teaching experience, for 8 years.

(d) A doctoral degree and 3 years of verified teaching experience, for 10 years.

(e) A National Board Certification issued by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, for 10 years. If the National Board Certificate expires less than 10 years after the date of application, the license is valid for the period of the certificate.

↪ A license specified in this subsection is renewable.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this section and NAC 391.057, ~~and 391.475,~~ a license expires on the holder's date of birth in the year of expiration.

3. A provisional license that is renewable becomes invalid on the date of expiration of the provision. If the holder of such a license provides evidence to the Department of his or her completion of the course work required to satisfy the provision, the Department will remove the provision and the license remains valid until the date of expiration of the license.

4. An endorsement becomes invalid on the date that the license to which it is attached expires.

Sec. 6. NAC 391.170 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.170 1. Except as otherwise provided in NAC ~~391.173,~~ **391.171**, to receive an endorsement as a professional administrator of a school, an applicant:

(a) Must:

- (1) Hold a master's degree;
- (2) Hold a valid *renewable* license to teach in elementary, middle, junior high, secondary or special schools;
- (3) Have and submit to the Department evidence of 3 years of teaching experience in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12 in schools approved by the State; and
- (4) Have completed at least 24 semester hours of graduate courses in the administration of a school, including:

- (I) Administration and organization of a school;
- (II) Supervision and evaluation of instruction;
- (III) Development of personnel;
- (IV) Finances of a school;
- (V) The laws that apply to schools;
- (VI) Curriculum;
- (VII) Research;
- (VIII) Internship or field experience; and
- (IX) Other courses considered to be part of an administrative program for educators;

and

(b) Must:

(1) Have completed an additional 12 semester hours of graduate courses which may include other courses considered to be part of an administrative program for educators; or

(2) Hold a master's degree or higher in educational administration from a college or university accredited by a regional accrediting association.

2. An endorsement as a professional administrator of a school may be issued pursuant to a reciprocal agreement with another state if that state has been approved by the Commission.

3. To receive an endorsement as a professional administrator of a program, an applicant must:

(a) Hold a master's degree;

(b) Hold a valid special license in the program for which an endorsement is requested;

(c) Have and submit to the Department evidence of 3 years of experience as a licensed employee in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12; and

(d) Have completed at least 27 semester hours in courses of study in administration including:

(1) Administration and organization of a school or the role of an administrator of a program in the applicant's area of endorsement;

(2) General principles of supervision of personnel or supervision of personnel for a program in the applicant's area of endorsement;

(3) Finances of a school or finances of a program in the applicant's area of endorsement;

(4) The laws that apply to schools;

(5) The evaluation and development of personnel for a school or the evaluation and development of personnel for a program in the applicant's area of endorsement; and

(6) Any other courses which are required for a degree in the administration of a program in the applicant's area of endorsement.

4. The requirements of subsections 1 and 3 may not be fulfilled by independent study.

Sec. 7. NAC 391.171 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.171 1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a conditional endorsement as a professional administrator of a school 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 degree from a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited;

(b) Holds a valid *renewable* elementary, secondary or special license, a valid license to teach special education, or a valid license to teach middle school or junior high school education; ~~and~~

(c) Has completed 3 years of teaching experience in kindergarten or grades 1 through 12 in schools approved by the State ~~;~~;

(d) Submits proof that the applicant has been accepted by a qualified provider for enrollment in a program for an alternative route to licensure; and

(e) Complies with the instructional and training policies and procedures of the qualified provider relating to professional education administration.

2. A conditional endorsement as a professional administrator of a school issued pursuant to this section:

(a) Authorizes the holder of the conditional endorsement to be employed as an administrator in a school district, a charter school or a private school ; ~~[that is licensed pursuant to chapter 394 of NRS if the school district, charter school or private school has received the approval of the Department to hire the holder of the conditional endorsement pursuant to NAC 391.172;]~~

(b) Becomes valid on the date on which the holder of the conditional endorsement ~~[initially enters into a contract with a school district, charter school or private school;]~~ *satisfies all the requirements of subsection 1;*

(c) ~~[Is]~~ *Except as otherwise provided in subsections 3 and 4, is* valid for ~~[3]~~ 2 years; and

(d) Is not renewable.

3. *The Superintendent of Public Instruction may delay the expiration of a conditional endorsement as a professional administrator issued pursuant to this section for not more than 1 year if the holder of the conditional endorsement submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant has experienced an illness, disability or undue hardship which prevented the applicant from completing the program for an alternative route to licensure within 2 years.*

4. A conditional endorsement as a professional administrator issued pursuant to this section is automatically revoked if the holder of the conditional endorsement withdraws from or is no longer enrolled in a program for an alternative route to licensure.

5. A person who is issued a conditional endorsement as a professional administrator pursuant to this section may apply for an unconditional endorsement as a professional administrator if the applicant:

(a) Successfully completes the education and training requirements of the qualified provider for the program for an alternative route to licensure, including, without limitation, the supervised, school-based experience provided by the qualified provider:

(1) Within 2 years; or

(2) Within 3 years if the person was granted a delay from the expiration of the conditional endorsement pursuant to subsection 3; and

(b) Pays the appropriate fee.

Sec. 8. NAC 391.465 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.465 The Commission will prepare and publish a list of ~~nontraditional programs which train teachers~~ *programs for an alternative route to licensure offered in another state* that have been approved by the Commission for the purposes of issuing a renewable license pursuant to NAC 391.470. ~~and a conditional special qualifications license pursuant to NAC 391.475.~~

Sec. 9. NAC 391.470 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.470 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a renewable license to teach pupils in prekindergarten through grade 12 to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant:

1. Holds a bachelor's degree from a postsecondary institution that is regionally accredited;

2. Passed the competency test in basic reading, writing and mathematics that is required by NAC 391.036 or is eligible for an exemption from that test;

3. Passed the competency test in the principles and methods of teaching that is required by NAC 391.036 or is eligible for an exemption from that test;

4. Passed the competency test in the subject matter of the initial area of endorsement on the license or the area of endorsement necessary for the applicant's area of assignment that is required by NAC 391.036 or is eligible for an exemption from that test;

5. Successfully completed , in another state ~~[a nontraditional program which trains teachers]~~ *a program for an alternative route to licensure* that has been approved by the Commission ~~[:]~~ *pursuant to NAC 391.465;* and

6. Holds a renewable license in good standing to teach in the state in which the ~~[nontraditional program which trains teachers]~~ *program for an alternative route to licensure* was completed or previously held a renewable license in good standing to teach in that state.

Sec. 10. NAC 391.058, 391.105, 391.172, 391.173, 391.460 and 391.475 are hereby repealed.

Sec. 11. Notwithstanding the provisions of NAC 391.057, as amended by section 4 of this regulation and the repeal of NAC 391.058, the former provisions of NAC 391.057 and 391.058 apply:

1. To a person who holds a valid conditional license issued before the effective date of this regulation pursuant to the former provisions NAC 391.057, until the expiration of that conditional license unless otherwise revoked before the expiration.

2. To a school district, charter school or private school that has in its employ, pursuant to the former provisions of NAC 391.058 and before the effective date of this regulation, a person who holds a conditional license described in subsection 1.

Sec. 12. Notwithstanding the provisions of NAC 391.171, as amended by section 7 of this regulation and the repeal of NAC 391.172 and 391.173, the former provisions of NAC 391.171, 391.172 and 391.173 apply:

1. To a person who holds a valid conditional endorsement as a professional administrator of a school issued before the effective date of this regulation pursuant to the former provisions of NAC 391.172, until the expiration of that conditional endorsement unless otherwise revoked before the expiration.

2. To a school district, charter school or private school that has in its employ, pursuant to the former provisions of NAC 391.173 and before the effective date of this regulation, a person who holds a conditional endorsement described in subsection 1.

LEADLINES OF REPEALED SECTIONS

391.058 Conditional licensure: Application to Department for permission of school district, charter school or private school to hire licensee; duties of employing school district, charter school or private school; requirements of licensee following issuance; cooperation with Commission and Department. (NRS 391.019, 391.032)

391.105 Conditional license of elementary teacher not renewable. (NRS 385.080, 391.019, 391.032)

391.172 Employment of person who holds conditional endorsement as professional administrator of a school; approval by Department required; duties of employing school district, charter school or private school; requirements of licensee following employment. (NRS 391.019, 391.032)

391.173 Qualifications for issuance of unconditional endorsement as professional administrator of school to person who holds conditional endorsement. (NRS 391.019, 391.032)

391.460 “Nontraditional program which trains teachers” defined. (NRS 391.019, 391.021, 391.032)

391.475 Qualifications for issuance of conditional special qualifications license to persons who complete nontraditional training program; validity; duties of employing school district, charter school or private school; application for renewable special qualifications license; circumstances under which license deemed immediately revoked. (NRS 391.019, 391.021, 391.032)