

PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

LCB File No. R046-10

NAC 391.036 Tests of competency required for initial license; exemptions; failure to comply; administration of tests. (NRS 391.019, 391.021, 391.032)

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, subparagraph (8) of paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019, NAC 391.0545, subsection 2 of NAC 391.0585, paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of NAC 391.233, paragraph (b) of subsection 6 of NAC 391.330, subsection 5 of NAC 391.363, paragraph (b) of subsection 4 of NAC 391.425 and subsection 7 of NAC 391.436, an applicant who applies for an initial license must pass a competency test that has been approved by the Commission, at the level of competence specified by the Commission, in:

(a) Basic reading, writing and mathematics;

(b) The principles and methods of teaching; and

(c) 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.

2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may exempt an applicant from any of the tests required by subsection 1 if the applicant:

(a) Submits to the Department evidence that he:

(1) Has retired from teaching in this State;

(2) Held a special license, a license to teach elementary or secondary education, or a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, which:

(I) Has expired within the 3 years immediately preceding the date on which his application was submitted;

(II) Was free from any conditions that the applicant pass a competency test; and

(III) Authorized the applicant to teach in the same grade level and subject area for which he is applying to receive an initial license;

(3) Was required, for the issuance of his expired license, to complete courses of study and experience which are substantially equivalent to the courses of study and experience required for the issuance of an initial license; and

(4) Otherwise satisfies the requirements for the issuance of an initial license; or

(b) Submits to the Department evidence that he has passed, as part of a teacher education program approved by a state and offered through a regionally accredited college or university, competency examinations equivalent to those required of the applicant by subsection 1.

(c) Submits to the Department evidence that he holds a non-provisional license to teach which was issued by another state, if that state has similar requirements that are at or above the level required for passing the examinations in Nevada. Applicants must still satisfy all examination requirements for Nevada School Law, Nevada Constitution, and the United States Constitution.

3. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in basic reading, writing and mathematics if he submits to the Department:

(a) Official documentation which indicates that he passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission:

(1) The “Pre-Professional Skills Tests” in reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service; or

(2) The “California Basic Educational Skills Test,” prepared and administered by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing;

(b) Evidence that he holds a license to teach that was issued by another state and has completed 3 years of full-time teaching within the immediately preceding 5 years in the subject area for which he is applying to receive an initial license in this State;

~~[(c) Evidence that he:~~

~~——(1) Holds a license to teach which was issued by another state;~~

~~——(2) Has at least 1 year of experience in teaching, administrating or providing other educational functions, or any combination thereof, on a full time basis at any grade level in prekindergarten through grade 12; and~~

~~——(3) Has passed, at the level of competency required for licensure by the state in which his license was issued:~~

~~——(I) The “Pre-Professional Skills Tests” in reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service;~~

~~——(II) An equivalent examination in basic reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by National Evaluation Systems, Inc.; or~~

~~——(III) An equivalent examination in basic reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by the state in which his license was issued;]~~

(c) ~~[d]~~ Evidence that he has received a master’s or more advanced degree from a regionally accredited college or university, the receipt of which required the passage of the “Graduate Record Examinations,” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service, or its equivalent;

(d) ~~[e]~~ An official transcript which indicates that he achieved at least a 3.0 grade-point average in his undergraduate studies and evidence that he has taken the “Graduate Record Examinations,” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service, and received a score of:

(1) At least 420 on the verbal portion of the examination;

(2) At least 460 on the quantitative portion of the examination; and

(3) At least 430 on the analytical portion of the examination or at least 3.5 on the analytical writing portion of the examination, as applicable; or

(e) ~~[f]~~ Evidence that:

(1) He did not pass, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Pre-Professional Skills Tests” in reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service; and

(2) After not passing the test described in subparagraph (1), he began and completed, with a grade of B or better, a course of study in a subject area approved by the Commission or the Director of Licensure for the Department.

4. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in the principles and methods of teaching if he:

(a) Submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that he passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Professional Knowledge Test,” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service;

(b) Submits to the Department evidence that he holds a license that was issued by another state and has completed 3 years of full-time teaching within the immediately preceding 5 years in the subject area for which he is applying to receive an initial license in this State;

~~[(e) Submits to the Department evidence that he:~~

~~——(1) Holds a license to teach which was issued by another state;~~

~~——(2) Has at least 1 year of experience in teaching, administrating or providing other educational functions, or any combination thereof, on a full time basis at any grade level in prekindergarten through grade 12; and~~

~~——(3) Has passed, at the level of competency required for licensure by the state in which his license was issued:~~

~~——(I) The “Professional Knowledge Test,” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service;~~

~~——(II) An equivalent examination prepared and administered by National Evaluation Systems, Inc.; or~~

~~——(III) An equivalent examination prepared and administered by the state in which his license was issued;]~~

(c) ~~[d]~~ Is applying for a license with an endorsement in an area for which training in the principles and methods of teaching is not required;

(d) ~~[e]~~ Is applying for an elementary endorsement and submits to the Department evidence that he passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Test” and the “Elementary Education: Content Area Exercises Test,” both prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service; or

(e) ~~[f]~~ Is applying for a special license to teach pupils from birth through kindergarten pursuant to NAC 391.088.

5. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in the subject matter of endorsement if he:

(a) Submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that he previously passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the competency test in that subject matter;

(b) Is applying for an initial license with an endorsement in an area for which no competency tests have been approved by the Commission;

(c) Is applying for an endorsement to teach pupils who have speech and language impairments and submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that he has received a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association;

(d) Is applying for an endorsement in family and consumer sciences and submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that he satisfactorily completed the “National Family and Consumer Sciences Certification Examination,” prepared and administered by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences; or

~~[(e) Submits to the Department evidence that he:~~

~~——(1) Holds a license to teach which was issued by another state;~~

~~——(2) Has at least 1 year of experience in teaching, administrating or providing other educational functions, or any combination thereof, on a full time basis at any grade level in prekindergarten through grade 12; and~~

~~—— (3) Has passed, at the level of competency required for licensure by the state in which his license was issued:~~

~~—— (I) A competency test in the subject matter of endorsement that was prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service or National Evaluation Systems, Inc.; or~~

~~—— (II) An equivalent examination prepared and administered by the state in which his license was issued.]~~

6. If a competency test in a subject matter has been reviewed by the Commission for less than 1 year but is not yet approved, an applicant must take the test, but is not required to pass the test at a level of competence specified by the Commission.

7. An applicant who fails to comply with the provisions of this section may not apply for a renewable license.

8. The tests required by subsection 1 will be administered three times each year at locations and times established by the Commission.