

Chapter 391 of NAC

ADOPTED TEMPORARY REGULATION OF THE
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION

LCB File No. T010-11

Filed with the Secretary of State on May 5, 2011

NAC 391.378 Qualifications for teaching pupils who have autism *ages 3-21.* (NRS 391.019, 391.032)

- 1. Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have autism, which has been approved by the Board; or*
- 2. Hold a special license with an endorsement in special education prescribed in NAC 391.343, 391.360, 391.363 or 391.370 and must complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils; or*
- 3. Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have autism; or*
- 4. Hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in the education of pupils who have autism and have completed 8 semester credits of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education; or*
- 5. Hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree and:*
 - (a) Have completed 8 semester credits of student teaching of pupils who have autism, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and*
 - (b) Have completed 30 semester credits of course work to include each of the following areas:*
 - (I) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;*
 - (II) The characteristics of pupils who have autism;*
 - (III) The assessment of pupils who have disabilities;*
 - (IV) Behavior management;*
 - (V) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities;*
 - (VI) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils who have autism;*
 - (VII) Speech and Language Development;*
 - (VIII) Education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to placement in additional educational programs, employment and living independently as an adult;*
 - (IX) Assistive technology or augmentative alternative communication;*
 - (X) Methods of teaching mathematics;*
 - (XI) Methods of teaching literacy.*

The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

~~[Effective through June 30, 2012. (NRS 391.019, 391.032)~~

~~— 1. Before teaching pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, who have autism, a person must hold:~~

~~— (a) An endorsement issued pursuant to this section; or~~

~~— (b) A special license with an endorsement in special education prescribed in NAC 391.343, 391.350, 391.356, 391.360, 391.363 or 391.370 and must complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils.~~

~~— 2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:~~

~~— (a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have autism, which has been approved by the Board;~~

~~— (b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have autism;~~

~~— (c) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in the education of pupils who have autism and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education; or~~

~~— (d) Have:~~

~~— (1) Met the requirements for an endorsement prescribed in NAC 391.343, 391.350, 391.356, 391.360, 391.363 or 391.370;~~

~~— (2) One year of verifiable teaching experience with pupils who have autism; and~~

~~— (3) Completed course work in the following areas:~~

~~— (I) Behavior management;~~

~~— (II) Speech and language development;~~

~~— (III) Assistive technology, or alternative or augmentative communication;~~

~~— (IV) Characteristics of pupils who have autism; and~~

~~— (V) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils who have autism.]~~

~~[NAC 391.378 Qualifications for teaching pupils who have autism. [Effective July 1, 2012.] (NRS 391.019, 391.032)~~

~~— 1. Before teaching pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, who have autism, a person must hold an endorsement issued pursuant to this section.~~

~~— 2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:~~

~~— (a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have autism, which has been approved by the Board;~~

~~— (b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have autism;~~

~~— (c) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in the education of pupils who have autism and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education; or~~

~~— (d) Have:~~

~~— (1) Met the requirements for an endorsement prescribed in NAC 391.343, 391.350, 391.356, 391.360, 391.363 or 391.370;~~

~~— (2) One year of verifiable teaching experience with pupils who have autism; and~~

~~— (3) Completed course work in the following areas:~~

~~— (I) Behavior management;~~

~~— (II) Speech and language development;~~

~~— (III) Assistive technology, or alternative or augmentative communication;~~

~~————(IV) Characteristics of pupils who have autism; and~~
~~————(V) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils who have autism.]~~

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMMISSION ON PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OF ADOPTED TEMPORARY REGULATIONS AS
REQUIRED BY ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES ACT, NRS 233B.066

LCB File No. T010-11

NAC 391.378 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Autism

INFORMATIONAL STATEMENT

The following statement is submitted for adopted amendments to Nevada Administrative Code 391:

1. A description of how public comment was solicited, a summary of public response, and explanation how other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.

Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations was sent to approximately 100 individuals and educational organizations. A workshop was held on February 9, 2011. There was public comment.

The Notice of Intent to Act Upon a Regulation for public hearing and adoption of proposed amendments to NAC 391.378 – Qualifications for Teaching Pupils Who Have Autism was sent to approximately 100 individuals and educational organizations. The public hearing was conducted on March 24, 2011 to provide the opportunity for comments by affected parties and the public. There was public comment. The Commission adopted the temporary proposed regulation.

2. The Number of Persons Who:

- a) Attended Each Hearing: First Workshop: 10; First Hearing: 10; Second Hearing: N/A
- b) Testified at Each Hearing: First Workshop: 5; First Hearing: 2; Second Hearing: N/A
- c) Submitted Written Statements: First Workshop: 0; First Hearing: 0; Second Hearing: N/A

A copy of any written comments may be obtained by contacting Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education, Nevada Department of Education, 775-687-9226, or by writing to the Nevada Department of Education, 700 East Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096.

3. A description of how comment was solicited from affected businesses, a summary of the response and an explanation how other interested parties may obtain a copy of the summary.

Comments were solicited through the workshop notice of January 6, 2011; and the public hearing notice of February 17, 2011. At the February 9, 2011 Workshop to Solicit Comments, there was public comment to the proposed temporary regulation language. At the March 24, 2011 public hearing there was public comment to the proposed temporary regulation language.

Workshop comments:

- a) Andre Yates, Clark County School District, stated that this proposal would separate the autism endorsement to a stand-alone endorsement. This proposal strengthens the requirements for an autism endorsement and opens opportunities to individuals to fill vacancies within autism classrooms.
- b) Dr. Tom Pierce, Chair of the Department of Special Education and Early Childhood at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, stated that the Department of Special Education and Early Childhood at UNLV fully supports and endorses this proposal.
- c) Rorie Fitzpatrick, Nevada Department of Education, Director of the Office of Special Education, Elementary, Secondary Education and School Improvement Programs and on behalf of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), stated that SEAC discussed this proposal and indicated unanimous support for the autism endorsement to be a stand-alone endorsement but strongly encouraged the Commission to retain the Options Program for autism and remove the sunset date for the Options Program.
- d) MaryAnn Demchak, University of Nevada, Reno and Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee, endorsed autism as a stand-alone endorsement and to retrain the Options Program for autism. Dr. Demchak also recommended wording for the autism endorsement to be consistent with other special education regulations.
- e) Shanon Taylor, Assistant Professor in Special Education at the University of Nevada, Reno, strongly encouraged the Commission to retain the Autism Options Program to allow additional avenues for individuals to obtain the Autism Endorsement.

Public Hearing comments:

- a) Andre Yates, Clark County School District, expressed support for the proposal for autism to be a stand-alone endorsement.
- b) MaryAnn Demchak, University of Nevada, Reno-Special Education Department and the Vice Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee, endorsed autism as a stand-alone endorsement. The University of Nevada, Reno-Special Education Department also endorses the proposal for autism as a stand-alone endorsement.

A copy of the summary and/or minutes of the public hearing may be obtained by contacting Christina Harper, Administrative Assistant to the Commission on Professional Standards in Education, Nevada Department of Education, 775-687-9224, or by writing to the Nevada Department of Education at 700 East Fifth Street, Carson City, Nevada 89701-5096.

4. If the regulation was adopted with or without change to any part of the proposed regulation, a summary of the reasons for adopting.

The Commission on Professional Standards in Public Education adopted the proposed temporary regulation language at the public hearing held March 24, 2011. The reason for adopting the proposal is to provide an additional avenue for individuals to receive an endorsement in Autism and outline the requirements for an endorsement in Autism.

5. The estimated economic effect of the adopted regulation on the business that it is to regulate and on the public. These must be stated separately and each case must include:

There is no economic effect of the regulation on the business that it regulates. There are no adverse effects.

There is no estimated economic effect on the public, either adversely or beneficially, nor immediate or long term.

6. The estimated cost to the agency for enforcement of the adopted regulation.

There is no additional cost to the agency for enforcement of this regulation.

7. A description of any regulations of other state or governmental agencies which the proposed regulation overlaps or duplicates and a statement explaining why the duplication or overlapping is necessary. If the regulation overlaps or duplicates a federal regulation, the name of the regulating federal agency.

No other state or governmental agency regulations will be overlapped or duplicated by the above noted regulation. There is no duplication or overlap of federal regulations.

8. If the regulation includes provisions which are more stringent than a federal regulation, which regulates the same activity, a summary of such provisions.

There are none.

9. If the regulation provides a new fee or increases an existing fee, the total annual amount the agency expects to collect and the manner in which the money will be used.

This regulation does not provide for a new fee or increase an existing fee.