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**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

CHAPTER 43

Statutory Authority: 1976 Code Sections 59-5-60 (2004) and 59-25-110 (2004)

43-64. Requirements for Certification at the Advanced Level

**Synopsis:**

This regulation needs to be amended to provide an alternative pathway to the principal’s certification. South Carolina currently provides an alternative pathway to a teaching certificate, as well as an alternative route to the superintendent’s certification. National trends in federal programs and grants (such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Race to the Top, and the upcoming reauthorization of ESEA) also encourage states to support an alternative pathway to the principal’s certification specifically for career changers. Because of adding the alternative route to the principalship, tiers of certification must be added to both the traditional and the alternative routes to delineate between initial and professional certification. In addition, Regulation 43-64 needs to be amended to add clarification regarding the alternative route for superintendents. The Notice of Drafting was published in the *State Register* on July 23, 2010.

**Instructions:** The following section of Regulation 43-64 is modified as provided below. All other items and sections remain unchanged.

**Text:**

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Elementary School Principal and Supervisor (Tier 1)

1. Master’s degree

2. Valid South Carolina Educator’s Professional Certificate at the elementary level

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examinations required by the State Board of Education

4. Verification of three years teaching experience, including at least one year of teaching in grades

pre K-8

5. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the training of

elementary principals and supervisors

Note: Eligibility for Tier 2 certification requires successful completion of the Principal Induction Program (PIP) in the principal’s first year, as well as an overall rating of Proficient or Exemplary on the Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP) evaluation instrument in the second year of employment as a principal.

B. Secondary School Principal and Supervisor (Tier 1)

1. Master’s degree

2. Valid South Carolina Professional Certificate at the secondary level

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

4. Verification of three years’ teaching experience, including at least one year of teaching in grades

7-12

5. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the training of

secondary principals and supervisors

Note: Eligibility for Tier 2 certification requires successful completion of the Principal Induction Program (PIP) in the principal’s first year, as well as an overall rating of Proficient or Exemplary on the Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP) evaluation instrument in the second year of employment as a principal.

C. Elementary or Secondary School Principal or Supervisor (Tier 1 Alternative Route for Career Changers—beginning July 1, 2012)

1. Master’s degree

2. Verification of at least three years of successful experience in leadership, supervision, upper-level management, or other position in a business, corporation, agency, or the military with responsibilities similar to those of a principal

3. Recommendation for elementary or secondary principal certification (Tier 1 Alternative Route for Career Changers) by the superintendent of a South Carolina public school district interested in employing the individual as an assistant principal

4. Elementary or Secondary Principal Certification (Tier 1 Alternative Route for Career Changers.) A one-year certificate that may be extended annually provided that the following requirements are met:

(a) Year One: At the end of this year, the South Carolina Department of Education must receive verification that the educator has completed a full year of experience as an assistant principal in a public school, has received a passing score on the area examination(s) required for certification of principals by the State Board of Education, and has received a successful rating on an SCDE-approved evaluation instrument from the employing school district. Additionally, the employing school district must submit a written request for a one-year extension of the educator’s elementary or secondary principal certificate (Tier 1 Alternative Route for Career Changers).

(b) Years Two and Three: At the end of each of these years, the South Carolina Department of Education must receive verification that the educator has completed a full year of experience as an assistant principal in a public school and has received a successful rating on an SCDE-approved evaluation instrument from the employing school district. At the end of each year, the employing school district must submit a written request for a one-year extension to the educator’s elementary or secondary principal certificate (Tier 1 Alternative Route for Career Changers). Also, by the end of Year Three, the educator must have successfully completed the program of study (i.e., training program) approved by the State Board of Education in order to be eligible for continued certificate extensions.

(c) Years Four and beyond. Upon meeting the requirements for Years One through Three, as described above, the educator is eligible for a professional Tier 1 certificate and employment as an assistant principal or as a principal.

5. Elementary or Secondary Principal Certificate (Tier 2). In order to be eligible to advance to an elementary or secondary principal certificate (Tier 2), the educator must have successfully completed all requirements as an assistant principal for Years One, Two, and Three, as described above. Additionally, the educator must successfully complete the Principal Induction Program, receive an overall rating of *Proficient* or *Exemplary* on the Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance (PADEPP) evaluation instrument in the second year of employment as a principal, and receive a recommendation for certificate advancement from the employing school district. If the overall rating on the PADEPP evaluation instrument in the second year of employment as a principal is *Needs Improvement*, the principal will remain on Tier 1 certification until the South Carolina Department of Education receives verification from the employing school district that the principal has achieved an overall rating of *Proficient* or *Exemplary* on PADEPP.

D. District Superintendent

1. Master’s degree

2. Valid South Carolina Professional Certificate at the elementary, middle, or secondary level

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

4. Verification of a total of three years experience as a pre K-12 or postsecondary teacher and two years as a school or school district administrator, postsecondary administrator, or school business administrator

5. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the training of school superintendents

E. District Superintendent (Alternative Route for Career Changers)

1. Master’s degree

2. Verification of at least ten years of successful experience in a senior position(s) of leadership, such as Chief Executive Officer in a business, corporation or agency, military officer, or other position with responsibilities similar to those of a district superintendent.

3. Recommendation for certification by a local school board in a South Carolina public school district interested in employing the individual as a superintendent.

4. Submission of a plan of study by the local school board that the individual must complete within three years to include, at a minimum, the areas of curriculum and instruction, school finance, and school law. The candidate must also submit a passing score on area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education for district superintendents within the first year of employment as a superintendent.

5. Issuance of an initial certificate for one year. This certificate may be extended annually for two additional years at the request of the local school board based on verification of successful performance reviews.

6. Issuance of a professional certificate upon completion of the specified program of study, and minimum qualifying scores on the required certification examination(s), and the recommendation by the local school board after three years of successful service as superintendent.

F. Vocational/Technology/Career Center Director

1. Valid South Carolina secondary principal or supervisor certificate and certification in one of the following areas:

Agriculture

Family and Consumer Sciences

Health Occupations

Industrial Technology

Business and Marketing Technology

Career Technology Education

OR

2. Valid South Carolina secondary principal or supervisor certificate and three years of experience as a director or assistant director in a Vocational/Technology/Career Center

OR

3. Master’s degree from a State Board of Education approved teacher education program in vocational education, including fifteen semester hours in administration and certification in one of the following areas:

Agriculture

Family and Consumer Sciences

Health Occupations

Industrial Technology

Business and Marketing Technology

Career and Technology Education

The fifteen semester hours in administration required above are to be selected from the areas listed below:

General School Administration

School Personnel Administration

Techniques of Supervision

School Law

School Finance

Human Growth and Development

Curriculum Development

AND

4. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

5. Verification of five years experience as a pre K-12 or postsecondary teacher, school or school district administrator, postsecondary administrator, or business administrator

II. OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT AREAS

A. ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY GUIDANCE

1. Master’s degree

2. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of school counselors

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

B. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

1. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST I

(a) Master’s degree

(b) Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of school psychologists

(c) Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

2. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST II

(a) Specialist degree

(b) Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of school psychologists

(c) Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

3. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST III

(a) Doctorate degree

(b) Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of school psychologists

(c) Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

C. SPEECH LANGUAGE THERAPIST

1. Master’s degree

2. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of speech language therapists

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

D. MEDIA SPECIALIST

1. Master’s degree

2. Completion of an advanced program approved by the State Board of Education for the preparation of media specialists or school library media specialists

3. Minimum qualifying score(s) on the area examination(s) required by the State Board of Education

**Fiscal Impact Statement:**

Additional costs will be incurred to provide the training for the alternative principals’ certification program.

**Statement of Rationale:**

The amendments to this regulation are needed to provide an alternative pathway to the principal’s certification. South Carolina currently provides an alternative pathway to a teaching certificate, as well as an alternative route to the superintendent’s certification. National trends in federal programs and grants (such as the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Race to the Top, and the upcoming reauthorization of ESEA) also encourage states to support an alternative pathway to the principal’s certification specifically for career changers. Because of adding the alternative route to the principalship, tiers of certification must be added to both the traditional and the alternative routes to delineate between initial and professional certification. In addition, Regulation 43-64 needs to be amended to add clarification regarding the alternative route for superintendents.