June 10, 2014

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons
Educator Preparation Provider Leaders

FROM: Peter Shulman, Assistant Commissioner/Chief Talent Officer
Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness

SUBJECT: Newly Adopted Educator Preparation Regulations

On June 4, 2014, the New Jersey State Board of Education adopted new regulations designed to raise the bar for entry into teacher preparation programs and to acquire professional certification. The new regulations require passage of a basic skills assessment and an increased GPA for entry into a teacher preparation program, and an increased GPA to obtain a certification endorsement. Passage of a performance-based assessment is also required for those seeking certification via the traditional route.

We believe that establishing higher academic standards for teacher preparation programs will help to ensure strong candidates enter those programs. Higher standards, including a performance assessment designed to test preparation students' pedagogical skills, will help to ensure certified teachers are adequately prepared in their particular area of licensure. These requirements are one part of a broader effort to better connect teacher preparation to the challenges of today’s classrooms. Please see this May 2013 Broadcast Memo for additional background on the rationale for these requirements, as well as our process working with educators to shape new regulations.

During the consideration of regulations before the State Board, ongoing communication with the New Jersey Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (NJACTE) and public comments yielded suggestions for amending implementation dates. As a result, the Department of Education (“the Department”) amended the effective dates of the adopted regulations to ensure the regulatory changes impact only prospective candidates, and not those enrolled in programs prior to adoption. Please visit the Office of Recruitment, Preparation, and Recognition website for more details, including the following resources:

- Overview of New Teacher Preparation Requirements
- Frequently Asked Questions About New Educator Preparation Regulations
To share feedback and questions; please email rpr@doe.state.nj.us.

PS/KB/EN/y: Newly Adopted Educator Preparation Regulations Memo 6-10-14 doc
c: Members, State Board of Education
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