

The proposed changes in Chapter 115 include, but are not limited to:

Part I Proposed Changes

- Added applicability to Charter Schools
- Added “at least” a Bachelor’s degree, equivalent academic experience
- Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLLC) Standards replaced with Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL)
- Added Department-approved programs for Educational Technicians as an alternative to credit requirements
- Other Teaching Assignments added: Added Language Immersion Teacher as an example of an International Teacher and added Alternative Education Teacher
- Added emergency teacher certificate and reciprocal professional certificates

Part II Proposed Changes

Section 1: General Certificates and Endorsements

Teachers

- Grade span recommendations, added Pre-K to any span starting with K: Pre-K-3, Pre-K-8, 6-12, and Pre-K-12
- Any “Social Studies” requirement expanded to include “or Social Sciences” and expanded the disciplines to include Psychology and Sociology
- Addition of 6 credit hours of required coursework
 - 3 hours of coursework in the area of diversity
 - 3 hours of coursework in one of the following areas: Human Development, Educational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Adolescent Psychology or Child Development
- 081 Early Childhood – Extended through K and added student teaching
- 020 Elementary Teacher – Added 9 credits of literacy methods
- World Language group: Extended down to Pre-K and added: American Sign Language, Hebrew, and Arabic
- 660 English as a Second Language Teacher
 - Changed to “English for Speakers of Other Languages” (ESOL) Teacher
 - Specified some coursework requirements
- Removal of qualifying examination requirements. For teachers, this requirement was replaced with the option to take a basic skills test, provide evidence of a 3.0 cumulative GPA in the courses required for the certificate/endorsement, or the review of a portfolio which includes evidence of the Initial Teaching Standards
- Added a School Health and Physical Education combined teacher endorsement

Education Specialists

- 071 – Library Media Specialist
 - Course specificity
 - Pathway for currently-certified teachers
- 075 – School Counselor
 - Standards review
- 093 – School Psychologist
 - Letters of reference
 - Flexible coursework requirements

- Recognition of MDOE approved programs

Section 2: Special Education Certificates and Endorsements

Teachers and Educational Specialists

- Grade levels changed to Pre-K to grade 12 in alignment with Part B IDEA
- More specific course requirements in accordance with skills of special education identified in IDEA, High Leverage Practices from the Council for Exceptional Children and the CEEDAR Center, and trends in education
- For conditional certificates, added language for a “mentor teaching program endorsed by the Maine Department of Education”
- Added an additional pathway to certification for current Ed Techs who have (a) a BA/BS, (b) experience as an Ed Tech III for three years, and (c) positive evaluations
- Parents → parents/guardians
- Person first language: From “Teacher of blind or visually impaired students” to “Teacher of students with visual impairments”
- Removal of:
 - 515 Adapted PE Teacher
 - 079 Special Ed Consultant
 - 293 Speech and Language Consultant

Section 3: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Certificates and Endorsements

Teachers and Educational Specialists

- Aligned endorsement areas with annually-approved CTE programs
- Removal of assessment requirements
- Created flexibility for certified teachers to become CTE instructors through the application of equivalent courses for the pedagogical course requirements

Section 4: *Administrator Certificates*

- The Interstate School Leaders Licensure Consortium (ISLCC) standards no longer exist and were replaced with the Professional Standards for Educational Leaders (PSEL), which were developed with guidance from the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Policy Board for Educational Administration (NPBEA)
- Requirements for advancing a certificate by the second renewal were eliminated
- Submission of a portfolio was added as an option for demonstrating that PSEL standards have been met
- Removal of assessment requirements