

§§1-7
C.18A:26-2b to
18A:26-2h
§8
Note

P.L. 2021, CHAPTER 224, *approved September 24, 2021*
Senate, No. 2826 (*First Reprint*)

1 **AN ACT** concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. As used in this act:
8 “Limited certificate of eligibility” means a certificate issued by the
9 State Board of Examiners to candidates who meet the criteria
10 established pursuant to section ¹**[3]** ⁴ of this act.

11 “Limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing” means a
12 certificate issued by the State Board of Examiners to candidates who
13 meet the criteria established pursuant to section ¹**[2]** ³ of this act and
14 complete a State-approved college professional educator preparation
15 program.

16
17 ¹2. There is established in the Department of Education a five-
18 year pilot program under which the State Board of Education shall
19 authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of eligibility with
20 advanced standing pursuant to section 3 of this act and a limited
21 certificate of eligibility pursuant to section 4 of this act.¹

22
23 ¹**[2]** ³. a. ¹**[No]** For the purposes of the pilot program
24 established pursuant to section 2 of this act, no¹ later than ¹**[six]**
25 three¹ months following the date of enactment, the State Board of
26 Education shall authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of
27 eligibility with advanced standing to a teacher candidate who meets all
28 other eligibility requirements for a certificate of eligibility with
29 advanced standing, except any one of the following:

30 (1) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other
31 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions; or

32 (2) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an
33 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other
34 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on
35 an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

36 b. The limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing
37 authorized pursuant to subsection a. of this section shall only be used

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted March 25, 2021.

1 for employment in a school district, charter school, or renaissance
2 school approved to hire individuals who hold the certificate pursuant
3 to section ¹~~4~~ 5¹ of this act.

4
5 ¹~~3~~ 4¹. a. ¹~~No~~ For the purposes of the pilot program
6 established pursuant to section 2 of this act, no¹ later than ¹~~six~~
7 three¹ months following the date of enactment, the State Board of
8 Education shall authorize the issuance of a limited certificate of
9 eligibility to a teacher candidate who meets all other eligibility
10 requirements to receive a certificate of eligibility, except any one of
11 the following:

12 (1) the requirement to complete a minimum number of subject area
13 course credits and all other related alternative requirements or
14 exceptions, except that a candidate applying for a limited certificate of
15 eligibility shall hold a bachelor's degree at a minimum;

16 (2) the minimum grade point average requirement and all other
17 alternative grade point average requirements or exceptions;

18 (3) the requirement to achieve a minimum score on a
19 Commissioner of Education-approved test of basic reading, writing,
20 and mathematical skills and all other alternative basic skills
21 requirements or exceptions; or

22 (4) the requirement to achieve a minimum passing score on an
23 appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge and all other
24 alternative requirements or exceptions to achieving a passing score on
25 an appropriate State test of subject matter knowledge.

26 b. The limited certificate of eligibility authorized pursuant to
27 subsection a. of this section shall only be used for employment in a
28 school district, charter school, or renaissance school approved to hire
29 individuals who hold the certificate pursuant to section ¹~~4~~ 5¹ of this
30 act.

31
32 ¹~~4~~ 5¹. a. A school district, charter school, or renaissance
33 school seeking to hire individuals who are issued limited certificates of
34 eligibility with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility
35 ¹under the pilot program established pursuant to section 2 of this act¹
36 shall be approved by the Commissioner of Education to do so. A
37 school district, charter school, or renaissance school shall apply to the
38 commissioner in a manner and form to be prescribed by the
39 commissioner. To be considered for approval to hire individuals who
40 hold limited certificates of eligibility with advanced standing or
41 limited certificates of eligibility, an applicant shall demonstrate a
42 sufficient capability to provide support to new teachers and:

43 (1) a demographic disparity between the district's or school's
44 student population and teachers; or

45 (2) a shortage of bilingual education teachers; or

46 (3) a critical need to fill teacher vacancies or a hardship caused by
47 teacher vacancies.

1 b. During the first year of implementation of ¹the pilot program
2 established pursuant to section 2 of¹ this act, the commissioner shall
3 approve no less than 10 school districts, charter schools, or renaissance
4 schools to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility
5 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility.

6 c. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school
7 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility
8 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility shall only
9 hire up to 10 percent of its total teachers pursuant to this act.

10 d. A school district, charter school, or renaissance school
11 approved to hire individuals who hold limited certificates of eligibility
12 with advanced standing or limited certificates of eligibility shall ¹,
13 during the period of the pilot program established pursuant to section 2
14 of this act,¹ annually submit a report to the commissioner evaluating
15 the impact of hiring such individuals. The report shall contain the
16 following information:

17 (1) the number of teachers who were issued a limited certificate of
18 eligibility with advanced standing or a limited certificate of eligibility;

19 (2) the subject areas in which the individuals teach and the courses
20 they teach;

21 (3) how the hiring of individuals who were issued the limited
22 certificates has impacted the district's or school's demographic
23 disparity between its student population and teachers as well as the
24 effect the hiring of those individuals has had on the district's or
25 school's ability to fill teacher vacancies;

26 (4) student achievement data for students taught by the teachers
27 who were issued the limited certificates, as determined by the
28 commissioner; and

29 (5) any other information the commissioner deems necessary.

30 e. The commissioner shall ¹, during the period of the pilot
31 program established pursuant to section 2 of this act,¹ annually submit
32 to the State Board of Education a report summarizing the information
33 submitted by school districts, charter schools, and renaissance schools
34 pursuant to subsection d. of this section.

35
36 ¹**[5]** 6¹. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or
37 regulation related to the evaluation of a provisional teacher for a
38 standard instructional certificate to the contrary, an individual who is
39 issued a limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing
40 pursuant to section ¹**[2]** 3¹ of this act or a limited certificate of
41 eligibility pursuant to section ¹**[3]** 4¹ of this act, is hired by a school
42 district, charter school, or renaissance school approved to hire such an
43 individual pursuant to section ¹**[4]** 5¹ of this act, and is teaching in the
44 district or school under a provisional instructional certificate, shall
45 earn a standard instructional certificate ¹**[**after two evaluations in
46 which the individual scores effective or highly effective. The
47 individual shall earn the two evaluations of effective or highly

1 effective within four years of being issued a limited certificate of
2 eligibility with advanced standing or a limited certificate of eligibility]
3 upon receipt of at least two summative evaluation ratings of effective
4 or highly effective earned within three consecutive years of teaching¹.
5 This requirement shall be in addition to all other requirements for a
6 standard instructional certificate established pursuant to State Board of
7 Education regulations.

8
9 ¹**[6.] 7.**¹ The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
10 regulations pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Act,”
11 P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the
12 purposes of this act.

13
14 ¹**[7.] 8.**¹ This act shall take effect immediately.

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16
17 _____
18
19 Directs DOE to establish five-year pilot program for issuance of
20 limited certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and limited
21 certificate of eligibility for certain teacher candidates.