

SENATE, No. 3253

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 10, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator TROY SINGLETON

District 7 (Burlington)

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Pou and Cunningham

SYNOPSIS

Establishes alternate route to expedite certification of teachers at early college high school programs.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/9/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning early college high school teachers and
2 supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize an alternate
9 route to expedite the certification of persons who are qualified by
10 education and experience to teach grades seven through 12 at an
11 early college high school program. The alternate route shall consist
12 of a three-tiered certificate program. The standards established by
13 the State board shall include at a minimum:

14 (1) for receipt of an early college high school certificate of
15 eligibility, the candidate shall:

16 (a) Hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited
17 college or university in a field related to the subject area to be
18 taught, as determined by the State board;

19 (b) Have experience teaching students at any grade level,
20 including postsecondary students; and

21 (c) Pass the appropriate State test of subject-matter knowledge.

22 (2) for receipt of an early college high school provisional
23 certificate, the candidate shall provide proof that an early college
24 high school intends to employ the candidate in a teaching position.

25 (3) for receipt of an early college high school standard
26 certificate, the candidate shall successfully complete at least four
27 school years of teaching at the early college high school.

28 b. The certification provided pursuant to this section may be
29 used only for employment at an early college high school and shall
30 not satisfy the requirements for employment in any other public
31 school.

32 c. As used in this section, “early college high school program”
33 means a partnership between a school district and an institution of
34 higher education that allows participants to simultaneously
35 complete requirements toward earning a State-endorsed high school
36 diploma and have the opportunity to earn credits that are
37 transferable to the institution of higher education in the partnership
38 as part of an organized course of study toward a postsecondary
39 degree at no cost to the participant or participant’s family.

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41 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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46 An early college high school program is a partnership between a
47 school district and an institution of higher education that allows
48 participants to simultaneously complete requirements toward

1 earning a State-endorsed high school diploma and have the
2 opportunity to earn credits that are transferable to the institution of
3 higher education in the partnership as part of an organized course of
4 study toward a postsecondary degree at no cost to the participant or
5 participant's family. This bill would require the State Board of
6 Education to authorize an alternate route to expedite the
7 certification of persons to teach grades seven through 12 at an early
8 college high school. The alternate route will consist of a three-
9 tiered certificate program, similar to the alternate route provided for
10 teachers at charter schools in the State.

11 Under the standards established for the early college high school
12 alternate route:

- 13 • Receipt of an early college high school certificate of
14 eligibility will require the candidate to, at a minimum:
15 hold an advanced degree from a regionally accredited
16 college or university in a field related to the subject area
17 to be taught; have experience teaching students at any
18 grade level, including postsecondary students; and pass
19 the appropriate State test of subject-matter knowledge;
20 and
- 21 • Receipt of the provisional certificate will require the
22 candidate to, at a minimum, provide proof that an early
23 college high school intends to employ the candidate in a
24 teaching position; and
- 25 • Receipt of the standard certificate will require the
26 candidate to, at a minimum, successfully complete at least
27 four school years of teaching at the early college high
28 school.

29 The bill provides that certification under the early college high
30 school alternate route may be used only for employment at an early
31 college high school and will not be permitted to satisfy the
32 requirements for employment in any other public school.