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Individual Evaluation Pathway Available Again for Certain Classroom Teaching Certificates

Update October 2018

Please note that only the Office of Teaching Initiatives in the NYS Education Department can officially determine an applicant's eligibility. This requires the submission of an application, an application fee and a full review of all of the applicant's credentials.

For teachers seeking Initial certification in certain key subject areas (listed below), there *is now* more flexibility. For the last several years we have had to tell these candidates that their only option was to enroll in a NYS teacher preparation program.

Amendment to Commissioner's Regulations to reinstate individual evaluation for certain certificate titles

Due to teacher shortages in New York State, on April 10, 2018 the Regents Higher Education Committee offered a proposed amendment to reinstate individual evaluation¹ for certain certificate titles. In recent years, these specific certificate subject areas had only been available to candidates applying for their *first* NYS certificate who either completed NYS teacher preparation programs or those with certification and experience from other states. They include:

- **Early childhood education (birth-grade 2)**
 - **Childhood education (grades 1-6)**
 - **Generalist in middle childhood education (grades 5-9)**
 - **English language arts (grades 5-9)**
 - **English language arts (grades 7-12)**
 - **Literacy (birth-grade 6)**
 - **Literacy (grades 5-12)**
- The individual evaluation pathway **already exists** for most other certificate titles **including but not limited to the following:** math, grades 5-9 and 7-12, social studies, grades 5-9 and 7-12), biology (and other sciences), grades 5-9 and 7-12, Music, PreK-grade 12, Art PreK-grade 12, Physical Education, PreK-grade 12 and all of the special education titles such as SWD grades 1-6, SWD grades 7-12 Generalist.
 - **This amendment was approved at the July 2018 Regents meeting, and became effective as of September 2, 2018.**
 - This would benefit those seeking their *first* NYS teaching certificate in one of the above areas since previously they had **no other option** but to enroll in a NYS approved teacher prep master's program leading to certification in one of these areas.

- Candidates seeking their *first* NYS certificates in any of the above areas will need to apply for the Initial certificate in the subject and level via the “individual evaluation pathway and pay the current \$100 fee. They must complete their TEACH profile including ALL colleges attended and all teaching experience to date and submit the following to the NYS Education Department
 1. Official transcripts which documents evidence of satisfactory completion of both pedagogical *and* non-pedagogical coursework²
 2. Passing scores on the required NYS certification exams (automatically reported to the SED)
 3. Completion of all NYS-approved workshops such as DASA, and
 4. Evidence of satisfactory field experience to the NYSED Office of Teaching Initiatives (See [Verification of Paid Teaching Experience for Initial Certification form.](#))

Only the OTI can make an official determination if requirements have or have not been met.

1. An individual evaluation is for those who did NOT major in education as an undergraduate and may pursue NYS certification in a specific subject and level at their own pace. They would need to successfully complete specific college credits in the liberal arts and sciences general core, the content core of the subject they seek certification and the pedagogical core (credits and competencies) for the certificate title sought. They also need to pass the applicable NYS certification exams and complete the NYS required workshops.
2. If there are too many credits missing from their transcripts in required areas, **it may still be advisable** for candidates to pursue a Master’s degree at a NYS college/university with approved teacher preparation programs leading to certification in the specific subject and level. In such cases, it would be unwieldy to pursue the individual evaluation route.

Below are the criteria to obtain an Initial NYS certificate in Childhood Ed, grades 1-6 via the Individual Evaluation Pathway:

- [Pathway: Individual Evaluation](#)
 - [Education - Bachelor’s Degree](#)
 - [Minimum 2.50 Undergraduate GPA](#)
 - [General Core in Liberal Arts and Sciences - 30 S.H.](#)
 - [College Coursework - Artistic Expression](#)
 - [College Coursework - Communication](#)
 - [College Coursework - Information Retrieval](#)
 - [College Coursework - Humanities](#)
 - [College Coursework - Language other than English \(including American Sign Language\)](#)
 - [College Coursework - Written Analysis and Expression](#)
 - [College Coursework - Concepts in Historical and Social Sciences - 6 S.H.](#)
 - [College Coursework - Scientific Processes - 6 S.H.](#)
 - [College Coursework - Mathematical Processes - 6 S.H.](#)
 - [Content Core - Liberal Arts & Sciences - 30 S.H.](#)
 - [Pedagogical Core - 21 S.H.](#)

- [College Coursework EXCLUSIVELY at Student Developmental Level - Childhood - Grades 1-6 - 6 S.H.](#)
- [College Coursework - Human Development and Learning](#)
- [College Coursework - Teaching Students with Disabilities & Special Health-Care Needs](#)
- [College Coursework - Teaching Literacy Skills Methods - 3 S.H.](#)
- [College Coursework - Teaching Literacy Skills - 3 S.H.](#)
- [College Coursework - Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment](#)
- [College Coursework - Foundations of Education](#)
- [Student Teaching - Childhood Education \(Grades 1-6\) - 40 Days](#)
- [New York State Teacher Certification Exam - Educating All Students Test \(EAS\)](#)
- [edTPA - Elementary Education](#)
- [Content Specialty Test \(CST\) - Multi-Subject or Multi-Subject: Teachers of Childhood \(Grade 1 - Grade 6\)](#)
- [Workshop - Child Abuse Identification](#)
- [Workshop - School Violence Intervention and Prevention](#)
- [Workshop - Dignity For All Students Act](#)
- [Fingerprint Clearance](#)