



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Members of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

**From:** Russell D. Johnston, Acting Commissioner

**Date:** February 19, 2025

**Subject:** Educator Licensure: Proposed Amendments to Regulations on Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, 603 CMR 7.00 (MTEL Alternatives and Other Updates)

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I am presenting to the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (Board) this month proposed amendments to 603 CMR 7.00, the Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval, for a vote to solicit public comment, anticipating a final vote by the Board in June 2025 following the public comment period.

The proposed amendments will permanently authorize alternative assessments for educator licensure, following up on the successful pilot program that the Board authorized in 2020, and also make additional changes as summarized below.

In 2020, the Board authorized a pilot of alternatives to the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) for educator candidates. As of February 2025, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) has approved 26 alternative assessments for educator licensure. Information about the regulatory pilot and the summative results of the associated evaluation are presented in a separate memorandum for discussion at the special meeting of the Board on Monday, February 24, 2025. These results build upon prior updates to the Board in October of 2021, 2022, and 2023. Representatives from the Department's evaluation partner for this project, the National Center for the Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (CALDER), American Institutes for Research, will attend the meeting on February 24, 2025 to share the high-level findings in the report.

Based on the results of the regulatory pilot, I am recommending that the Board permanently authorize the use of alternative assessments to the MTEL, as identified and approved by the Commissioner. If authorized, the Department will issue guidelines for the approval and sustainability of all alternative assessment options and will publicly report annual data on all alternative assessments, including the number of candidates taking the alternative assessments and summative test results commensurate with our MTEL reporting policies.

### **Additional Proposed Amendments to 603 CMR 7.00**

The proposed amendments also include the following revisions:

- Create a new Media Arts Endorsement to allow teachers to demonstrate a body of knowledge that aligns to the MA Arts Curriculum Framework (603 CMR 7.04, 7.14);
- Create additional flexibilities in coursework for professional licensure (603 CMR 7.04);
- Change the name of the Health/Family and Consumer Sciences license to Comprehensive Health in alignment with the MA Comprehensive Health Curriculum Framework, and shift from All Levels to PK-8 and 5-12 (603 CMR 7.04);
- Allow the Bilingual Endorsement as an alternative to the Sheltered English Immersion Endorsement for initial licenses in core academic areas (603 CMR 7.04);
- Specify that Emergency licenses may not be extended beyond June 30, 2027 (603 CMR 7.15); and
- Remove outdated language relating to licensure flexibilities that were available during the COVID-19 pandemic (603 CMR 7.02, 7.15), transition periods from past licensure changes that are no longer relevant (603 CMR 7.15), and a Performance Assessment Program that is no longer relevant (603 CMR 7.02).

Claire Abbott, Director of Educator Effectiveness, Brian Devine, Director of Licensure, Liz Losee, Director of Educator Effectiveness Policy, Lucy Wall of our legal staff, and James Cowan from CALDER will join us for the discussion.

After reviewing all the comments and determining whether further changes are needed, I plan to bring the amendments back to the Board in June 2025 for final adoption.

A redlined version of the regulations is attached, along with a motion to solicit public comment on the proposed amendments.

Enclosures:

603 CMR 7.00 Strikethrough version of relevant portion of regulations showing amendments

Motion: 603 CMR 7.00