

Board of Education Agenda Item

Item: _____ Q. _____

Date: September 21, 2005

Topic: First Review of Proposed Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure

Presenter: Dr. Thomas A. Elliott, Assistant Superintendent for Teacher Education and Licensure

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Origin:

Topic presented for information only (no board action required)

Board review required by

State or federal law or regulation

Board of Education regulation

Other: _____

Action requested at this meeting Action requested at future meeting: 10/26/2005 (date)

Previous Review/Action:

No previous board review/action

Previous review/action

date June 22, 2005

action The Board of Education approved the technical revision to incorporate the language of House Bill 2790 into the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel*.

Background Information:

The 2005 General Assembly approved House Bill 2790 requiring that the Board of Education, in its regulations governing teacher licensure, establish criteria and a procedure to allow persons seeking initial licensure as teachers through an alternative route as defined by Board regulations to substitute experiential learning in lieu of coursework. This language was incorporated in Section 22.1-298 of the *Code of Virginia*.

On June 22, 2005, the Board of Education approved the technical revision to incorporate House Bill 2790 language into the *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel* and authorized personnel of the Department of Education to proceed with the requirements of the Administrative Process Act. The Administrative Process Act (Section 2.2-4006 of the *Code of Virginia*) exempts revisions to regulations that are necessary to conform to changes in Virginia statutory law where no agency discretion is involved from its requirements. The APA process concludes on September 22, 2005, and the technical amendment will become effective. The criteria, when approved by the Board of Education, will be incorporated into the proposed *Regulations Governing the Licensure of School Personnel*.

Summary of Major Elements

A meeting was held with educators, representatives from the school division for which the house bill was patroned, and Department of Education personnel to develop the attached criteria and procedures for Board of Education review and approval. Attached are the “Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure.”

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Public Instruction recommends that the Board of Education receive for first review the “Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure.”

Impact on Resources: N/A

Timetable for Further Review/Action: The “Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure” will be submitted to the Board of Education for final review on October 26, 2005.

Criteria for Implementing Experiential Learning Credits for Alternate Route Applicants Seeking Initial Licensure

Individuals applying for an initial license through the alternate route as prescribed by the Board of Education must meet the following criteria to be eligible to request experiential learning credits in lieu of the coursework for the endorsement (teaching) content area:

1. Hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. Have at least five years of documented full-time work experience that may include specialized training related to the endorsement sought; and
3. Have met the qualifying score on the content knowledge assessment prescribed by the Board of Education.

The criteria does not apply to teachers of special education and elementary education (prek-3 and prek-6); however, in administering the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel*, modifications may be made in exceptional cases by the Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee.