



NEW YORK STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF HIGHER EDUCATION EDUCATOR PREPARATION NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) newsletter describes the current and upcoming activities related to higher education, with a particular focus on the preparation of educators. This newsletter, past newsletters, and a subscription link are available online on the [OHE website](#).

BOARD OF REGENTS JULY ITEMS

Special Education Teaching Assignment Flexibility in Grades 7-12. The Department has received feedback from the field suggesting that there has been a shortage of special education teachers who are certified to teach students with disabilities in grades 7-12 during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the Board of Regents [adopted an emergency measure](#) to allow teachers who hold a valid certificate in Students With Disabilities (Grades 1-6), Students With Disabilities (Grades 5-9) generalist, or Students With Disabilities (Grades 5-9) content specialist to teach students with disabilities in grades 7-12 during the 2021-2022 school year, provided that they otherwise meet all certification requirements for the teaching assignment.

EMERGENCY COVID-19 CERTIFICATE APPLICATION DEADLINE

The Emergency COVID-19 certificate application deadline is **September 1, 2021**. Information about the emergency certificate, including the certification requirements, is available on the [Emergency COVID-19 certificate webpage](#).

This one-year flexibility would enable districts to fill hard-to-staff middle and high school special education teaching assignments with teachers who have a background in special education. With this measure, special education teachers who hold the certificate titles listed above would be able to provide special education programs and services to students with disabilities in grades 7-12 through collaboration and consultation with general education teachers as integrated co-teachers, consultant teachers, and/or resource room teachers providing supplemental instruction. If they do not also hold subject area certification in grades 7-12, they would not be able to teach a special class in grades 7-12 in a subject area.

Internship certificate. The Board of Regents [adopted a regulatory amendment](#) to allow candidates who are enrolled in a registered school psychology program to be eligible for the Internship certificate. The amendment was effective on July 28, which is the date that the Internship certificate application also became available for school psychology candidates in the TEACH system.

EDTPA WEBINARS

The [edTPA 101 and Deep Dive Series](#) webinars for educator preparation program faculty and staff are being offered in August and September. Additional webinar offerings will be posted throughout the summer. Webinars for faculty and staff are posted on the [Faculty Tab](#) of the edTPA website.

WEBSITES
[Office of Higher Education
Certification](#)
[Office of College and University Evaluation](#)
[NYSTCE](#)
[Professional Standards and Practices Board](#)

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