

CHAPTER 279

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

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

C.18A:26-2.30 Alternate route program and certification for grades 7 to 12 at early college high school program.

1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize an alternate route to expedite the certification of persons who are qualified by education and experience to teach grades seven through 12 at an early college high school program and shall exempt the candidate from the requirements governing a Certificate of Eligibility set forth in State Board of Education regulations. The alternate route shall consist of a three-tiered certificate program. The standards established by the State board shall include at a minimum:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

c. Nothing herein shall be construed to preclude a teacher with an instructional certificate with an appropriate instructional endorsement issued by the State Board of Examiners from teaching at an early college high school program.

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

2. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved November 8, 2021.