

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 3172

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes teacher certification route for candidates with Montessori teaching credentials.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As amended by the Senate on June 20, 2023.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning teacher certification and supplementing chapter
2 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

3

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

6

7 1. a. As used in this section¹ **[,]**¹

8 "Certificate of eligibility" means a certificate with lifetime validity
9 issued by the State Board of Examiners to candidates who meet
10 degree, academic, and applicable test requirements for teacher
11 certification.

12 ¹"Provisional certificate" means a certificate issued by the State
13 Board of Examiners to candidates who hold either a certificate of
14 eligibility or a certificate of eligibility with advanced standing and are
15 employed as part of a State approved district training program or
16 residency leading to standard certification.

17 "Standard instructional certificate" means a permanent certificate
18 issued to a person who has met all teacher certification requirements.¹

19 b. The State Board of Education shall authorize a route to teacher
20 certification for candidates ¹seeking a certificate of eligibility with a
21 preschool through grade three endorsement or an elementary school
22 (kindergarten through six) endorsement¹ who possess a Montessori
23 teaching credential. To be eligible for this route to teacher
24 certification, a candidate shall:

25 (1) hold a Montessori teaching credential issued by the American
26 Montessori Society, the Association Montessori Internationale, or an
27 institution accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for
28 Teacher Education;

29 (2) hold a bachelor's degree in any field from an accredited
30 institution of higher education; and

31 (3) meet the applicable test requirements for a certificate of
32 eligibility.

33 ¹In order to obtain a provisional or standard instructional
34 certificate, a candidate seeking a certificate of eligibility with a
35 preschool through grade three endorsement or an elementary school
36 (kindergarten through grade six) endorsement who meets the criteria
37 established pursuant to this section shall not be required to complete:

38 (1) 50 hours of pre-professional experience or credits of preschool
39 through grade three pedagogy at a Department of Education-approved
40 institution of higher education;

41 (2) 350 hours of credits or coursework after employment; or

42 (3) 24 credits after employment.¹

43 c. The State Board of Examiners shall issue a certificate of
44 eligibility to a candidate who meets the criteria established pursuant to

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Senate floor amendments adopted June 20, 2023.

- 1 this section. A candidate eligible for a certificate of eligibility
2 pursuant to this ¹~~act~~ section¹ shall not be required to complete a
3 State¹ approved educator preparation program¹, but shall be required
4 to complete a Montessori teacher preparation program that:
5 (1) is affiliated with the American Montessori Society, the
6 Association Montessori Internationale, or is accredited by the
7 Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education; and
8 (2) requires a minimum of 200 academic hours and 400 practicum
9 hours¹.
- 10 d. The State Board of Education shall promulgate regulations
11 pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410
12 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), necessary to effectuate the provisions of this
13 section.
14
- 15 2. This act shall take effect immediately.