

SENATE, No. 3892

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 22, 2023

Sponsored by:

Senator M. TERESA RUIZ

District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Diegnan and Stanfield

SYNOPSIS

Directs State Board of Education to authorize issuance of new endorsements in certain fields.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/12/2023)

1 AN ACT concerning endorsements to teacher certificates and
2 supplementing chapter 26 of Title 18A of the New Jersey
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance
9 of a Students with Disabilities Preschool through Grade 12
10 endorsement to the instructional certificate. The endorsement shall
11 authorize the holder to teach students with disabilities, with the
12 exception of students who are blind or visually impaired or deaf or
13 hard of hearing, in all public schools and in all grade levels.

14 The holder of a Students with Disabilities Preschool through
15 Grade 12 endorsement may provide consultative services and
16 supportive resource programs, including modification and adaptations
17 of curriculum and instruction to students with disabilities in general
18 education programs in preschool through grade 12.

19 b. The holder of a current students with disabilities
20 endorsement issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:9B-11.4 prior to the
21 effective date of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
22 Legislature as this bill) may be granted the endorsement described
23 in subsection a. of this section upon application to the board.

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25 2. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance of
26 a Kindergarten through Grade 8 endorsement to the instructional
27 certificate. The endorsement shall permit the holder to teach:

28 a. students in all public schools in grades kindergarten through
29 six; and

30 b. the specialty subjects on the face of the certificate to students
31 in grades seven and eight in all public schools.

32

33 3. a. The State Board of Education shall authorize the issuance
34 of a Bilingual and Bicultural Preschool through Grade 12
35 endorsement to the instructional certificate. The endorsement shall
36 authorize the holder to teach bilingual and bicultural education in
37 all public schools and in all grade levels.

38 b. A candidate for the endorsement shall:

39 (1) demonstrate oral and writing competence in English and the
40 target language;

41 (2) complete an approved bilingual and bicultural education
42 program; and

43 (3) meet any other requirements established by the board.

44

45 4. The State Board of Education shall adopt, pursuant to the
46 “Administrative Procedure Act,” P.L.1968, c.410
47 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), the rules and regulations necessary to carry
48 out the provisions of this act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill directs the State Board of Education to authorize the
7 issuance of new endorsements in the areas of special education,
8 elementary and middle school education, and bilingual and
9 bicultural education.

10 The bill directs the State Board of Education to authorize the
11 issuance of a Students with Disabilities Preschool through Grade 12
12 endorsement to the instructional certificate. The endorsement
13 authorizes the holder to teach students with disabilities, with the
14 exception of students who are blind or visually impaired or deaf or
15 hard of hearing, in all public schools and in all grade levels.

16 Under the bill, the holder of a Students with Disabilities
17 Preschool through Grade 12 endorsement may provide consultative
18 services and supportive resource programs to students with
19 disabilities in general education programs. The bill further provides
20 that the holder of a current students with disabilities endorsement
21 issued administratively prior to the bill's effective date may be
22 granted the new endorsement upon application to the board. Under
23 current law, special education teachers may teach students classified
24 with disabilities in only the grade levels specified on their other
25 endorsements.

26 The bill directs the State Board of Education to authorize the
27 issuance of a Kindergarten through Grade 8 endorsement to the
28 instructional certificate. The endorsement will permit the holder to
29 teach:

- 30 • students in all public schools in grades kindergarten through
31 six; and
32 • the specialty subjects on the face of the certificate to
33 students in grades seven and eight in all public schools.

34 Under current law, numerous endorsements limit the holder to
35 teaching either only to students in elementary level grades or only
36 to students in middle school grades.

37 Finally, the bill authorizes the State Board of Education to issue
38 a Bilingual and Bicultural Preschool through Grade 12 endorsement
39 to the instructional certificate. The endorsement will authorize the
40 holder to teach bilingual and bicultural education in all public
41 schools and in all grade levels. Under the bill, a candidate for the
42 endorsement is required to demonstrate oral and writing
43 competence in English and the target language; complete an
44 approved bilingual and bicultural education program; and meet any
45 other requirements established by the board. Under current law,
46 candidates for the Bilingual and Bicultural endorsement are
47 required to have an additional endorsement for subject or grade
48 level to be taught.