

**PROPOSED REGULATION OF THE COMMISSION ON
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS IN EDUCATION**

LCB File No. R070-24

June 27, 2024

EXPLANATION – Matter in *italics* is new; matter in brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AUTHORITY: §§ 1, 3 and 4, NRS 385.080, 391.019 and 391.027; § 2, NRS 391.019.

A REGULATION relating to education; establishing and prescribing the qualifications for a STEM endorsement; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Commission on Professional Standards in Education to adopt regulations prescribing the qualifications for licensing teachers and other educational personnel. Existing law additionally requires the Commission to adopt regulations setting forth the educational requirements a teacher must satisfy to qualify for an endorsement in a field of specialization. (NRS 391.019)

Section 1 of this regulation establishes a STEM endorsement and prescribes the qualifications required to receive such an endorsement. Under **section 1**, to receive a STEM endorsement, an applicant must have: (1) have completed certain semester credits of course work in STEM or a course of study and training concerning STEM approved by the Department of Education; or (2) passed the “Praxis STEM for the Elementary Grades” (“Praxis STEM”) and met certain other requirements. **Sections 3 and 4** of this regulation revise the qualifications required to receive a STEM endorsement in the future by eliminating the provision which allows an applicant to receive a STEM endorsement if the applicant has passed the “Praxis STEM” and met certain other requirements. Under **sections 3 and 4**, upon the later of December 31, 2027, or 3 years after the date on which this regulation is filed with the Secretary of State, to receive a STEM endorsement, an applicant must have completed certain semester credits of course work in STEM or a course of study and training concerning STEM approved by the Department.

Section 2 of this regulation exempts a person who holds a STEM endorsement from existing regulations which require an applicant who applies for an endorsement to pass a competency test in the subject matter area of the endorsement for which the applicant is applying. (NAC 391.036)

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a STEM endorsement to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant:

(a) Holds a valid elementary license, a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education or a license to teach special education;

(b) Has at least 2 years of verified experience as a teacher; and

(c) Satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of subsection 2.

2. In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1, to receive a STEM endorsement an applicant must:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, have completed at least 12 semester credits of STEM course work, consisting of at least:

(1) Six semester credits in STEM content and pedagogy;

(2) Three semester credits in the development, selection and use of STEM instructional materials and assessments; and

(3) Three semester credits in integrated STEM instruction;

(b) Have completed a course of study and training concerning STEM approved by the Department pursuant to subsection 3; or

(c) Have passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Praxis STEM for the Elementary Grades” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service and:

(1) Have at least 3 years of experience serving as a STEM specialist, school STEM strategist, district STEM leader or in a similar assignment; and

(2) Currently serve as a STEM specialist, school STEM strategist, district STEM leader or in a similar assignment.

3. The Department shall approve a course of study and training concerning STEM if the course of study and training:

(a) Is provided by the Department or a regional training program for the professional development of teachers, in cooperation with an accredited college or university; and

(b) Consists of at least:

(1) Ninety hours of professional development in STEM content and pedagogy;

(2) Forty-five hours of professional development in the development, selection and use of STEM instructional materials and assessments; and

(3) Forty-five hours of professional development in integrated STEM instruction.

4. A person who holds a certificate for STEM teaching approved by the Department is not required to complete the credits required by subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2.

5. A STEM endorsement issued pursuant to this section does not authorize the holder to provide STEM instruction at any grade level not authorized by the license to which the endorsement is attached.

6. An endorsement issued pursuant to this section is not subject to the provisions of NAC 391.036.

7. As used in this section:

(a) “Integrated STEM instruction” means instruction which:

(1) Provides opportunities for pupils to engage with, reflect on and analyze more than one STEM content area; and

(2) Requires pupils to apply knowledge and practices from more than one STEM content area to learn about or solve transdisciplinary problems and phenomena.

(b) “Regional training program” means a regional training for the professional development of teachers and administrators created pursuant to NRS 391A.120.

(c) “STEM” means science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Sec. 2. NAC 391.036 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.036 1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, paragraph (h) of subsection 1 of NRS 391.019, NAC 391.0545, paragraph (a) of subsection 9 of NAC 391.0896, subsection 7 of NAC 391.0897, subsection 3 of NAC 391.180, subsection 3 of NAC 391.223, paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of NAC 391.231, paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of NAC 391.233, subsection 3 of NAC 391.276, subsection 2 of NAC 391.277, subsection 2 of NAC 391.279, subsection 4 of NAC 391.305, subsection 4 of NAC 391.312, subsection 2 of NAC 391.315, subsection 4 of NAC 391.320, subsection 3 of NAC 391.370, paragraph (b) of subsection 4 of NAC 391.425, subsection 6 of NAC 391.436, subsection 2 of section 2 of LCB File No. R123-22, subsection 2 of section 3 of LCB File No. R123-22 , ~~and~~ section 2 of LCB File No. R128-22 ~~]~~ *and section 1 of this regulation*, an applicant who applies for:

(a) A license must pass a competency test that has been approved by the Commission, at the level of competence specified by the Commission, in:

- (1) Basic reading, writing and mathematics;
- (2) The principles and methods of teaching; and
- (3) The subject matter of the area of endorsement on the license or the area of endorsement necessary for the applicant’s area of assignment.

(b) An additional endorsement on a license held by the applicant must pass a competency test that has been approved by the Commission, at the level of competence specified by the Commission, in the subject matter of the area of endorsement for which the applicant is applying.

2. The Superintendent of Public Instruction may exempt an applicant from any of the tests required by subsection 1 if the applicant:

(a) Submits to the Department evidence that he or she:

(1) Has retired from teaching in this State;

(2) Held a special license, a license to teach elementary or secondary education, a license to teach special education, a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education or a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, which:

(I) Has expired within the year immediately preceding the date on which his or her application was submitted;

(II) Was free from any conditions that the applicant pass a competency test; and

(III) Authorized the applicant to teach in the same grade level and subject area for which he or she is applying to receive a license;

(3) Was required, for the issuance of the applicant's expired license, to complete courses of study and experience which are substantially equivalent to the courses of study and experience required for the issuance of the license for which he or she is applying; and

(4) Otherwise satisfies the requirements for the issuance of a license;

(b) Submits to the Department evidence that the applicant has passed, as part of a teacher education program approved by a state and offered through a regionally accredited college or

university, competency examinations equivalent to those required of the applicant by subsection 1, as determined by the Department; or

(c) Submits to the Department evidence that the applicant holds a license to teach issued by another state which is acceptable to the Department for purposes of reciprocity.

3. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in basic reading, writing and mathematics if the applicant submits to the Department:

(a) Official documentation which indicates that he or she passed, within the 10 years immediately preceding the date on which his or her application was submitted and at the level of competency specified by the Commission:

(1) The “Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators” in reading, mathematics and writing, prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service; or

(2) A test of basic skills that is determined by the Department to be equivalent to the test prescribed by subparagraph 1;

(b) Evidence that the applicant has:

(1) Received a master’s or more advanced degree from a regionally accredited college or university; and

(2) Completed, within the 10 years immediately preceding the date on which his or her application was submitted, the “Graduate Record Examinations,” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service, or its equivalent, and received a score which was at or above the midpoint of the score range in effect at the time the examination was administered; or

(c) Official documentation which indicates that the applicant completed, within the 10 years immediately preceding the date on which his or her application was submitted:

(1) The ACT, administered by ACT, Inc., with a combined score of at least 21; or

(2) The SAT, administered by the Educational Testing Service, with a combined score of at least 1100.

4. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in the principles and methods of teaching if he or she:

(a) Submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that the applicant passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Principles of Learning and Teaching Test” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service; or

(b) Is applying for a license with an endorsement in an area for which training in the principles and methods of teaching is not required.

5. An applicant is exempt from the requirement to pass a competency test in the subject matter of the area of endorsement if he or she:

(a) Submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that the applicant passed, within the 10 years immediately preceding the date on which his or her application was submitted and at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the competency test in that subject matter;

(b) Is applying for a license or endorsement in an area for which no competency tests have been approved by the Commission;

(c) Is applying for an endorsement to teach pupils who have speech and language impairments and submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that he or she has received a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association; or

(d) Is applying for an endorsement in family and consumer sciences and submits to the Department official documentation which indicates that the applicant satisfactorily completed the

“Family and Consumer Sciences Composite Examination,” prepared and administered by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

6. An applicant who fails to comply with the provisions of this section may not apply for a renewable license.

Sec. 3. Section 1 of this regulation is hereby amended to read as follows:

NEW
SECOND
PARALLEL
SECTION

Section 1. Chapter 391 of NAC is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

1. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue a STEM endorsement to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant:

(a) Holds a valid elementary license, a license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education or a license to teach special education;

(b) Has at least 2 years of verified experience as a teacher; and

(c) Satisfies the requirements of paragraph (a) ~~or~~ *or* (b) ~~or (c)~~ of subsection 2.

2. In addition to the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection 1, to receive a STEM endorsement an applicant must:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, have completed at least 12 semester credits of STEM course work, consisting of at least:

(1) Six semester credits in STEM content and pedagogy;

(2) Three semester credits in the development, selection and use of STEM instructional materials and assessments; and

(3) Three semester credits in integrated STEM instruction; *or*

(b) Have completed a course of study and training concerning STEM approved by the Department pursuant to subsection 3 . ~~}; or~~

~~—(c) Have passed, at the level of competency specified by the Commission, the “Praxis STEM for the Elementary Grades” prepared and administered by the Educational Testing Service and:~~

~~—(1) Have at least 3 years of experience serving as a STEM specialist, school STEM strategist, district STEM leader or in a similar assignment; and~~

~~—(2) Currently serve as a STEM specialist, school STEM strategist, district STEM leader or in a similar assignment.}~~

3. The Department shall approve a course of study and training concerning STEM if the course of study and training:

(a) Is provided by the Department or a regional training program for the professional development of teachers, in cooperation with an accredited college or university; and

(b) Consists of at least:

(1) Ninety hours of professional development in STEM content and pedagogy;

(2) Forty-five hours of professional development in the development, selection and use of STEM instructional materials and assessments; and

(3) Forty-five hours of professional development in integrated STEM instruction.

4. A person who holds a certificate for STEM teaching approved by the Department is not required to complete the credits required by subparagraph (1) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2.

5. A STEM endorsement issued pursuant to this section does not authorize the holder to provide STEM instruction at any grade level not authorized by the license to which the endorsement is attached.

6. An endorsement issued pursuant to this section is not subject to the provisions of NAC 391.036.

7. As used in this section:

(a) “Integrated STEM instruction” means instruction which:

(1) Provides opportunities for pupils to engage with, reflect on and analyze more than one STEM content area; and

(2) Requires pupils to apply knowledge and practices from more than one STEM content area to learn about or solve transdisciplinary problems and phenomena.

(b) “Regional training program” means a regional training for the professional development of teachers and administrators created pursuant to NRS 391A.120.

(c) “STEM” means science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Sec. 4. 1. This section and sections 1 and 2 of this regulation become effective upon the date this regulation is filed with the Secretary of State.

2. Section 3 of this regulation becomes effective upon the later of:

(a) December 31, 2027; or

(b) Three years after the date on which this regulation is filed with the Secretary of State.