



NJDOE News

Contact: Peter Peretzman
For Release: May 2, 2001

Commissioner of Education Proposes Amendments to Grade Point Average Requirements for Teachers

Calling it a matter of equity and fairness Commissioner of Education Dr. Vito A. Gagliardi, Sr. has proposed three amendments to the state regulation requiring a 2.75 grade point average for all incoming teachers. The proposal to the State Board of Education at today's regular monthly meeting will be the subject of a public hearing in the future.

The first proposed amendment would allow prospective teachers to meet the regulation requiring a 2.75 GPA with either a baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate end-of-program 2.75 GPA. The second proposed amendment extends the baccalaureate/post baccalaureate option to those seeking provisional certification in the field of Preschool through Grade 3.

The third proposed amendment recognizes the special need for a dramatic increase in the number of teachers in Abbott preschool programs by September 1, 2001, as well as the particular circumstances of a certain category of people who are already employed in such programs prior to that date. Accordingly, the proposed amendment provides that candidates who meet these very specific requirements prior to September 1, 2001 must attain the 2.75 GPA requirement at the end of the proposed Preschool through Grade 3 college program:

- Those who were employed in an Abbott preschool program;
- Those who held a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; and
- Those who enrolled in a state-approved Preschool through Grade 3 college program

"All three amendments create opportunities for excellent teachers who would otherwise have been precluded from teaching to become part of the teaching force," said Dr. Gagliardi. "Teachers with post-baccalaureate degrees bring to the classroom a broader range of life experience to share with students, thus broadening the pool from which districts may select new teachers."

"These amendments also clarify that the 2.75 GPA applies equally to those candidates seeking the Preschool through Grade 3 certificate."

On January 5, 2000, the State Board of Education adopted the rule which established that all candidates for a provisional certification in instructional fields, except in the field of Preschool through Grade 3, must hold a bachelor's degree and maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 when a grade point of 4.0 equals an A.