

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

LCB File No. R011-24

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

AUTHORITY: §§ 1-9, NRS 391.019 and 391.032.

A REGULATION relating to educational personnel; providing for the issuance of an interim endorsement in special education to applicants who meet certain criteria; eliminating provisions authorizing certain persons to teach pupils with disabilities in certain areas of specialization without obtaining an 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. (NRS 391.019) Existing law additionally requires the Commission to adopt regulations which provide for the issuance of provisional licenses to teachers and other educational personnel before the completion of all courses of study or other requirements for a license in this State. (NRS 391.032)

Existing regulations require a person to obtain an endorsement in certain areas of specialization related to special education to be eligible to teach pupils with disabilities in those areas unless an exception applies. (NAC 391.340-391.393) Existing regulations create such an exception by authorizing certain persons to teach pupils with disabilities in an area of specialization for which an endorsement is otherwise required if the person: (1) completes a program of preparation leading to licensing in the area of specialization within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils; and (2) satisfies certain other requirements. (NAC 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378) **Sections 3-7** of this regulation remove this authorization. **Section 1** of this regulation instead provides for the issuance of an interim endorsement in special education to an applicant who is employed by a school district or charter school in an assignment for which an endorsement in an area of specialization related to special education is otherwise required. **Sections 2-8** of this regulation authorize the holder of an interim endorsement issued pursuant to **section 1** to teach pupils with disabilities in areas of specialization specified in **sections 2-8**.

Under **section 1**, to obtain an interim endorsement in special education, an applicant must: (1) be employed by a school district or charter school in an assignment for which an endorsement in an area of specialization related to special education is otherwise required; (2) have entered into a written agreement with the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the charter school that employs the applicant to complete any remaining requirements for an endorsement in the area of specialization required for his or her assignment;

and (3) meet certain other requirements. An interim endorsement in special education issued pursuant to **section 1**: (1) authorizes the holder to be employed as a teacher in a public school in an assignment for which an endorsement is otherwise required; and (2) is valid for not more than 3 years. **Section 1** also: (1) requires the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of a charter school to provide certain notice to the Office of Educator Licensure within the Department of Education if the holder of an interim endorsement ceases to be employed in the assignment for which an interim endorsement is issued; (2) prescribes requirements related to the reinstatement of an endorsement that has become invalid; and (3) provides that an interim endorsement in special education may be converted to a renewable endorsement in an area of specialization related to special education if the holder satisfies certain requirements.

Section 9 of this regulation provides that the amendatory provisions of **sections 3-7** do not apply to a person who has been approved to teach pupils pursuant to those sections before the effective date of this regulation. **Section 9** thereby allows such a person to continue to teach pupils with disabilities in an area of specialization for which an endorsement is otherwise required without obtaining an interim endorsement.

Section 2 of this regulation makes a conforming change to update the name of the “Council for Education of the Deaf” to reflect the current name of that entity.

Section 7 of this regulation replaces the term “autism” with the term “autism spectrum disorder” to reflect the current terminology used in the Nevada Revised Statutes.

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 an interim endorsement in special education to a person who submits an application which is accompanied by proof satisfactory to the Superintendent that the applicant:

(a) Holds a bachelor’s degree or a more advanced degree;

(b) Holds a valid renewable elementary, secondary or special teaching license, a valid license to teach special education, a valid license to teach middle school or junior high school education or a valid renewable license to teach pupils in a program of early childhood education;

(c) Is employed by a school district or charter school in an assignment for which an endorsement issued pursuant to NAC 391.340, 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378 or 391.390 is otherwise required and has entered into a written agreement with the board of

trustees of the school district or the governing body of the charter school, as applicable, to complete any remaining requirements for an endorsement issued pursuant to NAC 391.340, 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378 or 391.390, as applicable, within 3 years after the date on which the interim endorsement was issued; and

(d) Has paid the fee required by NAC 391.045.

2. An interim endorsement in special education issued pursuant to this section:

(a) Authorizes the holder of the interim endorsement to be employed as a teacher in a public school, including, without limitation, a charter school in an assignment for which an endorsement issued pursuant to NAC 391.340, 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378 or 391.390 is otherwise required;

(b) Becomes valid on the date on which the holder of the interim endorsement satisfies the requirements prescribed by subsection 1;

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, is valid for not more than 3 years; and

(d) Is not renewable.

3. If the holder of an interim endorsement issued pursuant to this section ceases to be employed in the assignment described in paragraph (c) of subsection 1, the board of trustees of the school district or the governing body of the charter school with whom the holder entered into a written agreement pursuant to subsection 1 must, not later than 15 days after the holder ceases to be employed in the assignment, notify the Office of Educator Licensure within the Department of the name and license number of the holder and the date on which the holder ceased to be employed in the assignment. The interim endorsement automatically becomes invalid immediately upon the receipt of such notification by the Office of Educator Licensure.

4. The holder of an interim endorsement in special education that has become invalid pursuant to subsection 3 may, at any time within 1 year after the date on which the interim endorsement was issued, apply to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the reinstatement of the endorsement if the holder:

- (a) Resumes employment in an assignment described in paragraph (c) of subsection 1;*
- (b) Enters into the written agreement required by paragraph (c) of subsection 1; and*
- (c) Pays the fee required by NAC 391.045.*

5. The requirements for the reinstatement of an interim endorsement in special education prescribed by subsection 4 apply regardless of whether:

(a) The assignment is in the same area of specialization as the area of specialization of the interim endorsement that has become invalid.

(b) The holder resumes employment with the same school district or charter school or obtains employment with a different school district or charter school.

6. An interim endorsement in special education may be reinstated pursuant to subsection 4 not more than once.

7. An interim endorsement in special education issued pursuant to this section may be converted to an initial endorsement issued pursuant to NAC 391.340, 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378 or 391.390, as applicable, after the completion of at least 2 full school years if the holder has:

(a) Successfully completed the requirements set forth in the written agreement entered into pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1;

(b) Received at least one performance evaluation rating designating the overall performance of the licensee as highly effective or effective during each school year;

(c) Satisfied the requirements for an initial endorsement prescribed by NAC 391.340, 391.343, 391.360, 391.363, 391.367, 391.378 or 391.390, as applicable; and

(d) Paid the fee required by NAC 391.045.

Sec. 2. NAC 391.340 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.340 1. ~~Before~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, who have hearing impairments, a person must hold an endorsement issued pursuant to this section.

2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have hearing impairments, which has been approved by the Board;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have hearing impairments;

(c) Hold a certificate from the Council ~~for~~ *on* Education of the Deaf;

(d) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in the education of pupils who have hearing impairments and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education; or

(e) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree and:

(1) Have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching of pupils who have hearing impairments, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and

(2) Have completed 18 semester hours of course work in any of the following areas:

(I) Characteristics of pupils who have hearing impairments;

(II) Methods of communication for pupils who have hearing impairments;

- (III) Anatomy and physiology of the ear and the mechanisms of speech;
- (IV) Audiology;
- (V) Hearing aids and auditory training;
- (VI) Development of the curriculum and methods of teaching pupils who have hearing impairments;
- (VII) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities;
- (VIII) Linguistics, speech and language for pupils who have hearing impairments;
- (IX) Introduction to special education or education of pupils who have disabilities; and
- (X) Education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to placement in additional educational programs, employment and living independently as an adult.

Sec. 3. NAC 391.343 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.343 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, mild to moderate intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries, a person must ~~†~~

~~—(a) Hold†~~ *hold* an endorsement to perform the duties of a generalist in special education issued pursuant to this section. ~~†; or~~

~~—(b) Hold a teacher’s elementary or secondary license, a license to teach special education, a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, or a bachelor’s or master’s degree with a major or minor in special education, must have completed at least 6 semester hours from the courses prescribed in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (d) of subsection 2 and must complete a~~

~~program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils.~~

2. To receive the endorsement to perform the duties of a generalist in special education, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries which has been approved by the Board;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries;

(c) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in the education of pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education; or

(d) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree and:

(1) Have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching of pupils who have learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and

(2) Have completed 30 semester hours of course work, including course work in the following areas:

(I) Human growth and development;

(II) Educational psychology;

- (III) Methods and materials of teaching reading or mathematics;
- (IV) Additional studies in methods of teaching reading or mathematics;
- (V) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;
- (VI) The characteristics of pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries;
- (VII) The assessment of pupils who have disabilities;
- (VIII) Behavior management;
- (IX) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities;
- (X) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils who have specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbances, intellectual disabilities, health impairments, orthopedic impairments or traumatic brain injuries; and
- (XI) Education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to placement in additional educational programs, employment and living independently as an adult.

↪ The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

Sec. 4. NAC 391.360 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.360 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils who have intellectual disabilities and have moderate to intense needs for assistance and intervention in their educational processes, a person must ~~{~~
~~—(a) Hold}~~ *hold* an endorsement issued pursuant to this section . ~~{ or~~

~~—(b) Hold a teacher’s elementary or secondary license, a license to teach special education, a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, or a bachelor’s or master’s degree with a major or minor in special education, must have completed 6 semester hours from the courses prescribed in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (e) of subsection 2 and must complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils.†~~

2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have intellectual disabilities which has been approved by the Board;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have intellectual disabilities;

(c) Hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree in special education in the area of intellectual disabilities and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education;

(d) Have:

(1) Met the requirements for an endorsement prescribed in NAC 391.343 or 391.370;

(2) One year of verifiable teaching experience with pupils who have intellectual disabilities and moderate to intense needs of assistance and intervention in their educational processes; and

(3) Completed 12 semester hours of the course work prescribed in sub-subparagraphs (IV) to (IX), inclusive, of subparagraph (2) of paragraph (e); or

(e) Hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree and:

(1) Have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching of pupils who have intellectual disabilities, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and

(2) Have completed 30 semester hours of course work, including course work in the following areas:

(I) Educational psychology;

(II) Human growth and development;

(III) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;

(IV) The assessment of pupils who have disabilities;

(V) Characteristics of pupils who have intellectual disabilities;

(VI) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils who have intellectual disabilities;

(VII) Behavior management;

(VIII) Communication programming for pupils who have intellectual disabilities;

(IX) Medical aspects of pupils who have disabilities;

(X) Education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to additional educational programs, employment and living as an adult; and

(XI) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities.

↪ The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

Sec. 5. NAC 391.363 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.363 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age in a program of early childhood special education, a person must ~~†~~

~~—(a) Hold† hold~~ an endorsement issued pursuant to this section. ~~†; or~~

~~—(b) Hold a teacher’s elementary or secondary license, a license to teach special education, or a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, complete 6 semester hours from the courses prescribed in paragraph (a) of subsection 3 within 1 year after beginning that teaching and complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in early childhood special education within 3 years after beginning that teaching.†~~

2. To receive an endorsement to teach pupils who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age in a program of early childhood special education, a person must:

(a) Hold a current license or certificate with a similar endorsement issued by another state;

(b) Hold a bachelor’s or a more advanced degree in early childhood special education and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in early childhood special education; or

(c) Satisfy the requirements of subsection 3.

3. A person may also receive the endorsement if he or she:

(a) Holds a bachelor’s or a more advanced degree and has completed at least 24 semester hours which, except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, must include, without limitaton, a course in each of the following subjects:

(1) Foundations or overview of early childhood special education;

(2) Typical and atypical development of children who are under 8 years of age;

(3) Assessment of children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;

(4) Strategies for intervention or development of curriculum for children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;

(5) Working with families of children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;

(6) Characteristics of autism spectrum disorders or intellectual disabilities in children who are under 8 years of age;

(7) Development of language and strategies for intervention for children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;

(8) Social and emotional development and strategies for intervention for children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age; and

(9) Coordination and collaboration of services through multi-tiered systems of support among other agencies and disciplines which serve children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age; and

(b) Has completed a minimum of 8 semester hours of credit through a regionally accredited college or university in student teaching of pupils who have disabilities or developmental delays and who are under 8 years of age or has 1 year of verifiable experience, at the conclusion of which the person is eligible for reemployment, working as a teacher in a program of early childhood special education in a public or private agency that is licensed by the State or that has been approved by a national organization and which serves such pupils and their families or has completed equivalent field experience with such pupils through a regionally accredited college or university.

4. For the purpose of completing the requirements for the subjects listed in subparagraphs (1) to (9), inclusive, of paragraph (a) of subsection 3, a single course of 3 semester hours may be applied to satisfy the required course work in no more than two of those subjects.

Sec. 6. NAC 391.367 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.367 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching adapted physical education to pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, who have disabilities in a setting other than the regular classroom, a person must ~~h~~

~~—(a) Hold}~~ *hold* an endorsement issued pursuant to this section . ~~h~~ ~~or~~

~~—(b) Hold a teacher’s elementary or secondary license, a license to teach special education, a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, or a bachelor’s or master’s degree with a major or minor in special education, must have completed 6 semester hours from the course work prescribed in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (d) of subsection 2 and must complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils.}~~

2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching adapted physical education which has been approved by the Board;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach adapted physical education to pupils who have disabilities;

(c) Hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree in adapted physical education and have completed a practicum, student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in adapted physical education; or

(d) Have completed a bachelor's or master's degree in physical education or special education and:

(1) Have completed a practicum, student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in adapted physical education; and

(2) Have completed 12 semester hours of course work, including course work in the following areas:

(I) Introduction to adapted physical education;

(II) Assessment of pupils for adapted physical education;

(III) Methods and strategies in adapted physical education;

(IV) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;

and

(V) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities.

↪ The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

Sec. 7. NAC 391.378 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.378 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{,}~~ *spectrum disorder*, a person must ~~{:~~

~~—(a) Hold~~ *hold* an endorsement issued pursuant to this section . ~~{; or}~~

~~—(b) Hold a teacher's elementary or secondary license, a license to teach special education, a license to teach middle school or junior high school education, or a bachelor's or a more advanced degree with a major or minor in special education, must have completed 6 semester hours from course work prescribed in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (c) of subsection 2 and must~~

~~complete a program of preparation leading to licensing in this field within 3 years after beginning to teach such pupils.~~

2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{}~~ *spectrum disorder*, which has been approved by the Department;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{}~~ *spectrum disorder*;

(c) Hold a bachelor's or a more advanced degree in the education of pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism *spectrum disorder* and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education;

(d) Hold a license to teach special education with an endorsement to perform the duties of a generalist in special education issued pursuant to NAC 391.343 and have completed 12 semester hours of course work through a regionally accredited college or university, including course work in each of the following areas:

(1) Speech and language development;

(2) Assistive technology, or alternative or augmentative communication;

(3) Characteristics of pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{}~~ *spectrum disorder*; and

(4) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{}~~ *spectrum disorder*; or

(e) Hold a bachelor's or a more advanced degree and have completed:

(1) Eight semester hours of student teaching with pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{}~~ *spectrum disorder*, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and

(2) Thirty semester hours of course work, including course work in the following areas:

(I) Behavior management;

(II) Speech and language development;

(III) Assistive technology, or alternative or augmentative communication;

(IV) Characteristics of pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{;}~~ *spectrum disorder;*

(V) Curriculum development or methods and strategies for teaching pupils ~~{who have}~~ *with* autism ~~{;}~~ *spectrum disorder;*

(VI) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;

(VII) The assessment of pupils who have disabilities;

(VIII) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities;

(IX) Education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to placement in additional educational programs, employment and living independently as an adult;

(X) Methods of teaching mathematics; and

(XI) Methods of teaching literacy.

↪ The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

Sec. 8. NAC 391.390 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.390 1. ~~{Before}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, before* teaching pupils, ages 3 to 21, inclusive, who have visual impairments, a person must hold an endorsement issued pursuant to this section.

2. To receive the endorsement, the person must:

(a) Have completed a program of preparation for teaching pupils who have visual impairments, which has been approved by the Board;

(b) Hold a license or certificate, issued by another state, with an endorsement to teach pupils who have visual impairments;

(c) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in the education of pupils who have visual impairments and have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching, equivalent field experience or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience in special education;

(d) Hold a bachelor's or master's degree and:

(1) Have completed 8 semester hours of student teaching of pupils who have visual impairments, equivalent field experience with such pupils or 1 year of verifiable teaching experience with such pupils; and

(2) Have completed 18 semester hours of course work in any of the following areas:

(I) Introduction to special education or the education of pupils who have disabilities;

(II) Development of the curriculum and methods for assessing and teaching pupils who are blind or have visual impairments;

(III) Beginning braille;

(IV) Advanced braille;

(V) Parental involvement in programs for pupils who have disabilities;

(VI) Rehabilitative services, education or planning for the transition of pupils who have disabilities from their current placement to placement in additional educational programs, employment and living independently as an adult;

(VII) Psychological and social aspects of blindness;

(VIII) Physiological aspects of blindness; and

(IX) Orientation and mobility or low vision.

↳ The requirement for course work in two of these areas may be satisfied by completing one course, of at least 3 semester hours, that encompasses both subject matters.

Sec. 9. This regulation is hereby amended by adding thereto the following transitory language which has the force and effect of law but which will not be codified in the Nevada Administrative Code:

The amendatory provisions of sections 3 to 7, inclusive, of this regulation do not apply to a person who has met the requirements to teach pupils pursuant to each of those sections, respectively, before the effective date of this regulation.