

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

LCB File No. R012-24

March 18, 2024

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

AUTHORITY: § 1, NRS 391.019.

A REGULATION relating to educational personnel; revising requirements for a person to teach pupils who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age in a program of early childhood special education; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law requires the Commission on Professional Standards in Education 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) With certain exceptions, existing regulations require a person to hold an endorsement to teach pupils who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age in a program of early childhood special education before teaching such pupils in such a program. (NAC 391.363) This regulation eliminates an exception to this requirement that allows a person to teach a class in which the majority of the children have developmental delays and are the age of pupils in kindergarten if the person holds a license to teach special education for kindergarten through grade 12 with certain endorsements and has certain teaching experience on or before September 1, 1994.

Existing regulations establish various alternative avenues by which a person may qualify 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. One such avenue allows a person to receive such an endorsement if the person has completed at least 18 semester hours in certain courses and certain student teaching, work experience or field experience. (NAC 391.363) This regulation requires a person who wishes to qualify for such an endorsement by those means to hold a bachelor’s or more advanced degree. Additionally, this regulation: (1) revises the courses that such a person must complete; and (2) increases, from 18 to 24, the minimum number of semester hours that are required.

Finally, this regulation eliminates an avenue by which a person may 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 if the person has completed a certain program of special education approved by the Department of Education.

Section 1. NAC 391.363 is hereby amended to read as follows:

391.363 1. ~~{Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, before}~~ *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 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) ~~{Have completed a program of special education, approved by the Department, for children who have disabilities and who are under 8 years of age;~~

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

~~{(e)}~~ (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

~~{(d)}~~ (c) Satisfy the requirements of subsection 3.

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

(a) ~~{Has}~~ *Holds a bachelor's or more advanced degree and has* completed at least ~~{18}~~ *24* semester hours which ~~{included}~~, *except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, must include* a course in each ~~{subject listed in subparagraphs (1) to (5), inclusive, with any remaining hours~~

~~completed by courses in any~~ of the *following* subjects : ~~listed in subparagraphs (6) to (9),~~
~~inclusive:~~

- (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) ~~Issues regarding physical and medical management of~~ *Characteristics of autism spectrum disorders or intellectual disabilities in* children who ~~have disabilities and 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 ~~(5)~~ (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.

~~{5.— A person may teach in a class in which the majority of the children have developmental delays and are the age of pupils in kindergarten if the person:~~

~~—(a) On or before September 1, 1994, has at least 3 years of experience teaching pupils who have developmental delays and are the age of pupils in kindergarten in a program of early childhood special education at a public or private agency that is licensed by the State or that has been approved by a national organization; and~~

~~—(b) Holds a license to teach special education for kindergarten through grade 12 with an endorsement issued pursuant to NAC 391.343, 391.347, 391.360, 391.370 or 391.376.}~~