

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulation
State Board of Education**
(DLS Control No. 14-015)

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

This regulation establishes the requirements for a new Instructional Leader: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education endorsement for teachers in prekindergarten through grade 6; STEM is an abbreviation of science, technology, engineering, and math.

The regulation presents no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulation of COMAR Affected

State Board of Education:

Certification: Teachers: COMAR 13A.12.02.29

Legal Analysis

Background

According to the State Department of Education, STEM education is an approach to teaching and learning that integrates the content and skills of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Teachers implementing STEM education must have training in STEM content and the engagement of students in certain behaviors, including inquiry, logical reasoning, collaboration, and investigation. In 2013, a workgroup consisting of department staff and representatives of higher education, local school system STEM coordinators, and local school system certification personnel recommended the development of an endorsement to recognize teachers who serve as STEM resources and leaders within the school setting.

The State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) within the department share the authority to develop regulations for the preparation and certification of teachers and other professional personnel in the public schools. The department advises that the regulation was considered at the PSTEB meeting on October 3, 2013. PSTEB is scheduled to consider final action on the regulation during a public meeting on June 5, 2014.

Summary of Regulation

This new regulation establishes the requirements for a teaching endorsement in the area of Instructional Leader: STEM, prekindergarten through grade six. To qualify for the new endorsement, an individual must (1) have a professional certification in early childhood education or elementary education; (2) complete a minimum of 18 semester hours of post-baccalaureate credit or approved continuing professional development credits in specified areas, including 12 semester hours in STEM education, three semester hours, or the equivalent, in leadership knowledge and skills, and at least three semester hours or the equivalent in a supervised practicum or school-based internship; and (3) present verification of 27 months of satisfactory teaching experience.

Legal Issue

The regulation presents no legal issue of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The State Department of Education cites §§ 2-205, 2-303(g), 6-121, and 6-701 through 6-705 of the Education Article as legal authority for the regulation. Specifically, § 2-205 grants the State board broad authority to adopt regulations to implement its powers and duties in overseeing the administration of public schools. Subsection 2-303(g) requires the State Superintendent of Schools to certificate professional personnel in each public school in accordance with the Education Article and subject to the bylaws, rules, and regulations of the PSTEB. Section 6-121 requires the department to adopt regulations establishing teacher certification for career professionals in specialized fields. Section 6-704 requires the State board and PSTEB to develop regulations for the certification of teachers and other professional personnel.

The cited authority is correct and complete. The regulation complies with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The department advises that the regulation has no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The department advises that the regulation has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Contact Information

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