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603 CMR 7.00

Regulations for Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval

Most Recently Amended by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education:
December 19, 2011

Section:

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[7.02:](#) Definitions

[7.03:](#) Educator Preparation Program Approval

[7.04:](#) Types of Licenses, Requirements for Licensure, Licenses Issued, and Requirements for Field-Based Experience

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7.11: Professional Support Personnel Licenses

Candidates seeking professional support personnel licenses who have substantial experience and formal education relevant to the license sought but who do not meet all of the specific requirements listed in 603 CMR 7.11 may demonstrate that they meet the requirements, with the exception of a passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test, through a Panel Review administered by the Department in accordance with guidelines to be established by the Department. For candidates who were prepared outside Massachusetts, see 603 CMR 7.04 (2) (d) and 7.05 (5) (a) and (b).

(1) **School Guidance Counselor** (Levels: PreK-8; 5-12)

(a) **Initial License.**

1. Master's degree with a major in counseling.
2. Subject Matter Knowledge:
 - a. Familiarity with the Curriculum Frameworks and their use in the advising responsibilities of the guidance counselor.
 - b. Understanding and interpretation of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) and other academic test results to students, teachers, and parents.
 - c. Psychology of learning.
 - d. Understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of learning and behavior disorders.
 - e. Theories of normal and abnormal intellectual, social,

- and emotional development.
 - f. Knowledge of strategies used for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, the spectrum of mental illnesses, and violence in PreK-12 students.
 - g. Philosophy, principles and practices in school guidance counseling.
 - h. Federal, state, municipal, and school laws and regulations.
 - i. Career counseling.
 - j. Resources within the school system or the community for referral.
 - k. Knowledge of statistics, research design, and research in guidance counseling.
 - l. Group counseling and group leadership.
 - m. Development of skills for consultation with parents, teachers, and administrators.
 - n. College counseling and use of college and other post-secondary resource materials (grades 5-12).
3. A practicum of 450 hours in an educational setting.
 4. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.

(b) Professional License.

1. Possession of an Initial license.
2. Three years of employment as a school guidance counselor.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. A total of 60 credits of graduate coursework that may include credits earned in a master's degree program for the Initial license in a discipline appropriate to the license sought, which include but are not limited to school counseling, mental health counseling, school psychology, or clinical psychology.
 - b. Achievement and maintenance of certification or licensure from one of the following:
 - i. National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC).
 - ii. National Board for School Counseling.

(2) School Nurse (Levels: All)

(a) Initial License.

1. Valid license to practice as a Registered Nurse in Massachusetts.
2. A bachelor's or master's degree in nursing.
3. A minimum of two full years of employment as a Registered Nurse in a child health, community health, or other relevant clinical nursing setting.
4. Completion of an orientation program based on the requirements for delivery of school health services as defined by the Department of Public Health.
5. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.

(b) Professional License.

1. Possession of an Initial license.

2. Three years of employment as a school nurse.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. Achievement and maintenance of certification or licensure by a nationally recognized professional nursing association as a school nurse, community health nurse, or a pediatric/family/school nurse practitioner.
 - b. A master's degree program that may include credits earned in a master's degree program for the Initial license in community health, health education, nursing, or public health.

(3) School Psychologist (Levels: All)

(a) Initial License.

1. Completion of a master's degree or higher in school psychology approved by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), including an advanced practicum of 1,200 hours, 600 of which must be in a school setting. (The Commissioner may grant temporary approval, in accordance with NASP standards, to institutions without NASP approval for up to five years while they achieve such approval.)
2. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.

(b) Professional License.

1. Possession of an Initial license.
2. Three years of employment as a school psychologist.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. Passing score on the National School Psychology Examination.
 - b. Achievement and maintenance of a certificate or license from one of the following:
 - i. The Massachusetts Board of Allied Mental Health Professionals, as an educational psychologist.
 - ii. The National Association of School Psychologists, as a school psychologist.

(4) School Social Worker/School Adjustment Counselor (Levels: All)

(a) Initial License.

1. Master's degree in Social Work or Counseling.
2. Course work and clinical experience that demonstrate knowledge of:
 - a. Principles of therapeutic relationships.
 - b. Theories of normal and abnormal intellectual, social, and emotional development.
 - c. Learning disorders, including emotional issues affecting student achievement, and their treatment.
 - d. Prevention and treatment of substance abuse, physical and sexual abuse, and violence in PreK-12 students.
 - e. Knowledge of state-of-the-art diagnostic instruments; procedures for testing and interpreting results.
 - f. Techniques for communicating and working with families and school and community personnel.

- g. Knowledge of the criminal justice system with particular reference to the juvenile justice system and organizations.
 - h. Knowledge of medical conditions and medication related to physical disabilities and learning disorders.
 - i. Federal and state laws and regulations addressing the legal rights of students and families.
3. A practicum of 900 hours, 450 of which must be working with children, adolescents, and families in an educational setting.
4. Passing score on the Communication and Literacy Skills test.

(b) Professional License.

1. Possession of an Initial license as a school social worker/school adjustment counselor.
2. Three years of employment as a school social worker or school adjustment counselor.
3. Completion of one of the following:
 - a. A total of 60 credits of graduate coursework that may include credits earned in a master's degree program for the Initial license in a discipline appropriate to the license sought including but not limited to mental health counseling, psychological counseling, school counseling, school social work, or social work.
 - b. Achievement and maintenance of a certificate or license from one of the following:
 - i. The Massachusetts Board of Registration of Social Work, as a Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) or a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW).
 - ii. The Massachusetts Board of Allied Mental Health Professionals, as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor (LMHC), a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT), or a Licensed Rehabilitation Counselor (LRC).