



Virginia
Regulatory
Town Hall

Notice of Intended Regulatory Action
Agency Background Document

Agency Name:	Department of Education
VAC Chapter Number:	8 VAC 20-21
Regulation Title:	Licensure Regulations for School Personnel
Action Title:	Amend Licensure Regulations for School Personnel to Establish an Alternative Route to Licensure for Career Switchers
Date:	June 22, 2000

This information is required prior to the submission to the Registrar of Regulations of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) pursuant to the Administrative Process Act § 9-6.14:7.1 (B). Please refer to Executive Order Twenty-Five (98) and Executive Order Fifty-Eight (99) for more information.

Purpose

Please describe the subject matter and intent of the planned regulation. This description should include a brief explanation of the need for and the goals of the new or amended regulation.

According to the federal government, schools will need 200,000 new teachers a year for the next decade--up from 150,000 in recent years--as student enrollment increases and current teachers retire. As a result, many school systems welcome adults who are willing to leave established careers for teaching. Researcher Emily Feistritzer found that 10 percent of new teachers hired in 1996 came from another profession; the percentage is growing yearly. (U.S. News, 10/26/98). A survey conducted of local school divisions in Virginia supports the need for additional qualified teachers.

An alternative route to licensure does exist in Virginia; however, the current route may be problematic for career switchers who may have related experiences and training. To increase opportunities for school divisions to employ career switchers with rich experiences, an alternative route for career switchers is proposed. This route to licensure will allow career switchers with experience to apply directly to the Department of Education for a license.

Basis

Please identify the state and/or federal source of legal authority to promulgate the contemplated regulation. The discussion of this authority should include a description of its scope and the extent to which the authority is mandatory or discretionary. The correlation between the proposed regulatory action and the legal authority identified above should be explained. Full citations of legal authority and, if available, web site addresses for locating the text of the cited authority must be provided.

Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-16. **Bylaws and regulations generally** states: "The Board of Education may adopt bylaws for its own government and promulgate such regulations as may be necessary to carry out its powers and duties and the provisions of this title."

Code of Virginia, Section 22.1-298. **Regulations governing licensure** states: AThe Board of Education shall, by regulation, prescribe the requirements for the licensure of teachers. Such regulations shall include a requirement that every teacher seeking initial licensure take a professional teacher=s assessment prescribed by the Board. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the Board may provide for the issuance of a provisional license, valid for a period not to exceed three years, to any person who does not meet this requirement or any other requirement for licensure by law.

Substance

Please detail any changes that would be implemented: this discussion should include a summary of the proposed regulatory action where a new regulation is being promulgated; where existing provisions of a regulation are being amended, the statement should explain how the existing regulation will be changed. The statement should set forth the specific reasons the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action would be essential to protect the health, safety or welfare of citizens. In addition, a statement delineating any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed shall be supplied.

The proposed regulations recognizes the varied experiences of individuals with degrees who are interested in teaching in the public schools. The proposed regulation would remove potential barriers, such as requiring employment prior to licensure. Currently, individuals seeking licensure via the alternative route must apply for a license through an employing school division; therefore, they must be employed in order to apply for a license.

Alternatives

Please describe, to the extent known, the specific alternatives to the proposal that have been considered or will be considered to meet the essential purpose of the action.

An alternative route to licensure does exist in Virginia; however, the current route may be problematic for career switchers who may have related experiences and training. To increase opportunities for school divisions to employ career switchers with rich experiences, an alternative route for career switchers is proposed. This route to licensure will allow career switchers with experience to apply directly to the Department of Education for a license.

The proposal regulatory revision will recognize career switchers’ considerable expertise and training. Instructional opportunities offered in other careers may include multi-cultural sensitivity, motivational theory, management by objective, organization skills, accountability, leadership, assessment, substance abuse, counseling skills, and computer technology. This proposal would lessen the burden on career switchers interested in teaching in Virginia by recognizing their extensive training and experiences.

Family Impact Statement

Please provide a preliminary analysis of the potential impact of the proposed regulatory action on the institution of the family and family stability including to what extent the regulatory action will: 1) strengthen or erode the authority and rights of parents in the education, nurturing, and supervision of their children; 2) encourage or discourage economic self-sufficiency, self-pride, and the assumption of responsibility for oneself, one’s spouse, and one’s children and/or elderly parents; 3) strengthen or erode the marital commitment; and 4) increase or decrease disposable family income.

The proposal to establish an alternative route for career switchers should not directly impact families. The program will provide career switchers opportunities to prepare to teach, therefore, providing a second career path.