

November 4, 2005

Ms. Leah Koot

Re: In the Matter of the Appeal of Leah Koot
Docket No. 0506-156

Dear Ms. Koot:

As you are aware, you were advised that you are not currently eligible for a New Jersey teaching certificate because you do not hold a bachelor's or an advanced degree from a regionally accredited college or university, as required by N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.1(a)1. The institution from which you received your bachelor's degree, Binah Institute of Advanced Judaic Studies, is not regionally accredited.

At its meeting of November 3, 2005, the State Board of Examiners considered the appeal that you filed to challenge the determination of the Office of Licensure and Credentials that you are ineligible for certification. After thorough review of the documentation that you provided, the Board voted to deny your appeal. While you presented information regarding your graduate program, you did not provide evidence to show that your degree is from a regionally accredited institution. Accordingly, as you do not have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, you are not eligible for the Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility. Nor do you have 60 credits in liberal arts from a regionally accredited institution, as is required for the Teacher of Elementary School Certificate of Eligibility.

Similarly, you are not eligible for the Teacher of the Disabled Certificate of Eligibility because eligibility for that certificate requires that the applicant possess or be eligible for a standard or provisional New Jersey instructional certificate with an endorsement appropriate to the subject or grade level to be taught, as defined in the student's IEP. Because you do not possess or are not eligible for an instructional certificate, since you did not graduate from a regionally accredited college, you are also not eligible for the Teacher of the Disabled Certificate of Eligibility.

There are many accrediting agencies in the United State; the State Board of Examiners will accept degrees only from those colleges and universities that are accredited by one of the six regional accrediting associations. The six regional accrediting associations maintain high standards for evaluating educational institutions. By relying on the approval of the six

associations, the State Board of Examiners is assured that graduates who apply for certification have attended institutions that meet the high standards. Accordingly, the State Board of Examiners cannot accept an application from a graduate of a college that lacks regional accreditation.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

RRH/AGL/kootleah-appeal –unaccredited college

Date of mailing:

By certified and regular mail

This matter may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to *N.J.A.C.*6A-3.