

September 26, 2005

Ms. Manana Roinishvili

Re: In the Matter of the Application for Certification of Manana Roinishvili
Docket No. 0506-129

Dear Ms. Roinishvili:

As you are aware, you have appealed the determination that you are ineligible for teacher certification because you lack the requisite 2.5 grade point average (GPA). At its meeting of September 22, 2005, the State Board of Examiners reviewed the information that you provided in support of your appeal. After careful consideration, the Board voted to deny your appeal because the documentation that you submitted failed to prove that your grades meet the requisite GPA.

The intent of the GPA requirement is to enhance teacher quality in New Jersey. The State Board of Education placed the GPA requirement in regulation; all candidates must therefore meet that standard. The State Board of Examiners is unable to issue teaching certificates to individuals who do not have the requisite grade point average. Nor does the Board have the authority to waive the requirement or substitute applicants' life experiences for the grade requirement, regardless of the applicants' circumstances.

As in all cases, the Board accepts the GPA that is on the transcript at the time the degree is conferred. That is true whether the individual graduated from an American college or presents a foreign transcript with a certified translation. Your GPA was calculated in the same manner as a GPA from an American university is calculated, which means that Pass/Fail grades are not included in the GPA. The Board does not recalculate GPA's; nor can it create a new GPA using "pass" grades, as a "pass" may represent one of several possible grades.

There are two options that you may wish to consider that may further your goal of becoming a teacher in New Jersey. The regulation governing the GPA requirement permits prospective teachers to meet the grade point requirement with either a

baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate end-of-program GPA. Accordingly, the first option permits you to present the GPA from a graduate degree. You should be aware, however, that the GPA from any degree completed after September 1, 2004 has to be 2.75 in order for the department to accept it in lieu of your undergraduate GPA.

The second option permits experienced teachers to waive the GPA if they have three years of successful teaching under an out-of-state certificate. You have indicated that you have many years of teaching, although it was not under a certificate from another state. In your case, you may ask for a credentials review. That process would permit you to prove that your teaching experience in another country is the equivalent of three years of teaching under a certificate from another state. If you wish to pursue this option, please contact Peggy Smith, of the department. She may be reached at peggy.smith@doe.state.nj.us.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

RRH/AGL/roinishvilimanana-GPA appeal

By certified and regular mail

Date of mailing:

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