

## **Public Notice**

### **Education**

#### **State Board of Education**

#### **Notice of Receipt of Petition for Rulemaking**

#### **Regulations Regarding Requirements for Certificates**

Petitioner: Spiros Zambas.

**Take notice** that on September 16, 2024, the State Board of Education (State Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above petitioner, requesting the State Board amend and repeal regulations regarding requirements for certificates.

N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.1(b) and 6A:6-4.1(b) require a petition for rulemaking to state the substance or nature of the rulemaking that is requested, the reasons for the request and the petitioner's interest in the request, and references to the authority of the agency to take the requested action.

The petitioner seeks to amend and repeal regulations regarding requirements for certificates but did not specify which regulations at Title 6A of the New Jersey Administrative Code. The petitioner's request questions why a person who did not go to college but is able to pass State standardized tests that demonstrate the person's level of education is equivalent to people with a college degree in specific subject matters would be prevented from earning an alternate path teaching certificate. The petitioner's request also questions why a person who took extra courses that were irrelevant to the field of study or degree but resulted in a lower grade point average (GPA) should be punished and deemed uneducated when the person has earned a degree and passed all of the Praxis tests.

The petitioner states that the Department of Education (Department) should prioritize if a person is educated, regardless of how the education was obtained, because, the petitioner contends,

attending college is not a requirement to achieve higher education even if it is usually expected. The petitioner states that many people achieve higher education outside of college and should be provided a chance to prove their level of education through the standardized Praxis test.

The request indicates that the petitioner attended college and failed some courses that were not required or associated with the petitioner's degree but that lowered the petitioner's GPA to just below the required GPA of 2.75 or greater. The request also indicates that the petitioner passed the Praxis Core and other Praxis assessments for mathematics and the sciences. The request further indicates that the petitioner was recognized for scoring in the top 15 percent of people who took the science test, but the petitioner contended that the existing regulation implies that the petitioner is uneducated.

The petitioner's request did not provide a reference to the agency's authority to take the requested action.

In accordance with N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, the Department shall subsequently mail to the petitioner, and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition as it relates to N.J.A.C. 6A:14-2.7.