

KATHRYN A. BLACKSTONE, :
 :
 PETITIONER, :
 :
 V. : COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION
 :
 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF : DECISION
 EDUCATION, STATE BOARD OF :
 EXAMINERS, :
 :
 RESPONDENT. :
 _____ :

SYNOPSIS

Pro-se petitioner appealed the determination of the State Board of Examiners (Board) to deny her a standard Teacher of Elementary School certificate. Petitioner contends that the coursework and teaching experience required for her Master of Education degree from Rutgers University – awarded in 2004 – is equivalent to the requirement for 200 hours of formal instruction under the alternate route to teacher certification in New Jersey; she requested an evaluation of her educational background and experience to determine whether she could be given credit for some portion of her educational coursework, and whether such credit could be applied to an application for a teaching certificate. Respondent State Board of Examiners (Board) contends that the petitioner has satisfied requirements toward certification, except for completion of a teacher preparation program culminating in student teaching and accompanying fulfillment of provisional requirements. The Board asserted that it is entitled to prevail as a matter of law, and filed a motion for summary decision.

The ALJ found that: the respondent, in a decision dated October 16, 2008, did address the issue of whether petitioner’s educational background and teaching experience is equivalent to the requirement for 200 hours of formal instruction, and concluded that it was not; petitioner chose to enroll in the alternate route program and as such is obligated to fulfill the requirements set forth in *N.J.A.C. 6A:9-8.3*, which specifically states that the required 200 hours of instruction in professional education must be completed concurrently with the provisional teaching requirement; petitioner admitted that she did not complete 200 hours of formal instruction while she was provisionally teaching. Accordingly, the ALJ concluded that the respondent is entitled to prevail as a matter of law, granted the Board’s motion for summary decision, and dismissed the petition.

Upon review, the Commissioner concurred that the Board is entitled to summary decision. Accordingly, the petition of appeal was dismissed.

This synopsis is not part of the Commissioner’s decision. It has been prepared for the convenience of the reader. It has been neither reviewed nor approved by the Commissioner.

August 19, 2010

OAL DKT. NO. EDU 2719-09
AGENCY DKT. NO. 67-4/09

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The record of this matter and the Initial Decision of the Office of Administrative Law have been reviewed. The parties did not file exceptions to the Initial Decision.

Upon such review, the Commissioner concurs with the Administrative Law Judge that the Board of Examiners is entitled to summary decision. Accordingly, the petition of appeal is dismissed.

IT IS SO ORDERED.*

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

Date of Decision: August 19, 2010

Date of Mailing: August 20, 2010

* This decision may be appealed to the Superior Court, Appellate Division, pursuant to *P.L.* 2008, c. 36.