Sept. 18, 2012

Patricia Lopuszanski

Dear Ms. Lopuszanski:

This letter is in response to your recent request for information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Your request was received on Sept. 11, 2012.

You have requested the following information:

Request 1: A list of teachers that currently hold a "Short-Term Emergency Special Education Certificate"

Response 1: The attached document, 13-081-lopuszanski-doc.xlsx, is provided in response to this request.

Request 2: The written policy stating the requirements to qualify for a teacher to receive such certificate as submitted to the ISBE by a school district or regional office

Response 2: Pursuant to Final Transition Rule 25.48, the short-term emergency certificate is appropriate only for individuals who are working toward an LBS1 but have not yet completed the requirements. Also, see Form 73-86 on our website at http://www.isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-86_emergency_speced.pdf.

Section 25.48 Short-Term Emergency Certification in Special Education

Beginning January 1, 2002, no further authorizations to assign individuals to special education teaching positions shall be issued pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226.820. As of that date, the provisions of this Section shall apply instead to school districts, special education cooperatives and joint agreements, regional superintendents of schools, and nonpublic special education facilities approved by the State Board of Education pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 401 (Nonpublic Special Education Facilities).

a) An individual who wishes to receive short-term emergency certification shall:

1) hold an Illinois elementary, secondary, early childhood, special, or transitional bilingual certificate (which need not be valid for the grade levels to be taught under temporary emergency certification as otherwise required by Appendix A to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision));
2) present evidence of having completed college-level coursework encompassing a "survey of exceptional children" as well as any one of the three other areas required pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226.810(b); and
3) submit the required fee along with an application to the State Board of Education, on a form supplied by the Board, that:
   A) includes a plan for the individual's acquisition of an unlimited LBS I approval by completing a supervised clinical experience that qualifies for college credit, as well as coursework covering:
      i) diagnosis of, and the characteristics of children with, all the disabilities encompassed by the LBS I credential,
      ii) methods appropriate for teaching children with all the disabilities encompassed by the LBS I credential, and
      iii) adaptations or modifications of the general curriculum to meet the needs of students with the disabilities encompassed by the LBS I credential; and
   B) describes the supervision the individual will receive from an individual certified or approved to provide this supervision pursuant to 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226 (Special Education).

b) Each applicant's plan shall be validated by an authorized representative of the college or university that operates the approved teacher preparation program under whose auspices the applicant will complete necessary coursework.
c) Each applicant's plan shall be validated by an authorized representative of the employing entity. In addition to verifying that the required supervision will be provided, this representative shall verify that the employing entity has been unable to secure the services of an individual who is appropriately certified or approved for the teaching position in question and shall describe the entity's recruitment efforts in this regard.
d) Approval of an individual's application shall be specific to the teaching assignment and employer described therein but shall be transferable to a new employer, provided that the conditions of subsection (c) of this Section are met by the new employer.
e) Upon approval of an application by the State Superintendent of Education, the individual shall have three years, beginning with the next academic term, in which to complete the coursework described in subsection (a)(3)(A) of this Section and receive unlimited LBS I approval under 23 Ill. Adm. Code 226.810. This three-year period shall not include intervals during which any of the following circumstances apply:
   1) serious illness or the onset or exacerbation of a disability;
   2) care of an immediate family member during serious illness or disability;
   3) destruction of the certificate-holder's dwelling; or
   4) other circumstances that cause the time the individual could otherwise devote to acquiring additional credentials to be taken up with other responsibilities that cannot be avoided without serious financial hardship or other family disruption (e.g., death of a spouse that results in the need to take a second job or assume operation of a business).
f) An individual who experiences any of the circumstances discussed in subsection (e) of this Section may submit information to the State Superintendent of Education describing the situation. This information shall be accompanied by relevant evidence such as a physician's statement, insurance claim, or other applicable documentation of the facts. The State Superintendent shall issue a response indicating the period of time for which the three-year deadline shall toll, which shall take into account the relationship of the academic term to the individual's circumstances.
g) Short-term emergency certification shall not be renewed.
1) An individual who does not obtain the unlimited LBS I approval within the time allotted shall not be assigned to a special education teaching position.
2) An individual who does obtain the unlimited LBS I approval shall thereupon become subject to the provisions of Section 25.47 of this Part. (Source: Added by Peremptory rulemaking at 35 Ill. Reg. 14663, effective August 22, 2011).

Request 3: The schools broken down by county and the individual schools listed and the number of teachers at each of those buildings that currently have staff that hold a "short-term emergency special education certificate"

Response 3: Please see Response 1.

Request 4: A list of any other special certificates that are given to teachers that have not completed their education and hired by school districts and those districts that have requested those certificates and the individual schools/county the teachers are currently working in.

Response 4: A “Type 12” is the only type.

Request 5: The history of when the short-term emergency special education certification/or any other special emergency certificates went into effect

Response 5: The requested information is available on our website at http://www.isbe.net/coreyh/htmls/coreyhupdate.htm.

Request 6: The current status on its use and purpose and when these type of certificates will expire.

Response 6: The requested information is available on our website at http://www.isbe.net/coreyh/htmls/coreyhupdate.htm.

If you have questions, please contact Amanda Simhauser at (217) 782-4648 or asimhaus@isbe.net.

Sincerely,

Matt Vanover
Director of Public Information

Attachment