

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**SYNOPSIS AGENDA/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

<b>CODE:</b>	EP-03
<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Education Professions
<b>DATE:</b>	June 14, 2016

**SUBJECT/TITLE**

Revision of Program for Alternative Certification of Educators (PACE) Guidelines

**PURPOSE OF REPORT/REGULATION/ITEM**

The Office of Educator Services recommends the attached changes to the PACE Guidelines in order to remove a reference to No Child Left Behind; to update language for clarity; and, in order to assist districts in filling critical staffing vacancies, remove the work experience requirement for prospective PACE candidates.

**CRITICAL FACTS**

In 1984, S.C. Code Ann. § 59-26-30(A)(8) enabled the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish the Critical Need Certification Program in order to provide a route to certification for individuals who have not completed a traditional teacher preparation program. The SBE revised program guidelines in March 2001 and changed the name to the Program of Alternative Certification for Educators (PACE). PACE trains qualified candidates with a major equivalency in approved content areas to become fully certified and effective teachers in South Carolina.

The SBE has continued to revise the guidelines periodically since 2001 and last did so in 2008. The passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in December 2015 necessitates removal of references to No Child Left Behind in the PACE Guidelines.

*A Report on the Fall 2015 Supply and Demand Survey* published by CERRA in January 2016 indicates that South Carolina school districts are experiencing increasing demand for teachers but a decreasing supply of available educators for vacant positions. This state trend mirrors a similar national pattern in which the pipeline of new teachers is not sufficient to fill the number of teaching positions available. In order to assist districts in filling teaching vacancies, the South Carolina Department of Education recommends removing the work experience requirement for PACE eligibility. Candidates for Teach For America and the American Board for the Certification of Teaching Excellence do not have a work experience requirement for program eligibility.

## TIMELINE/REVIEW PROCESS

- March 2001 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to include an experience requirement and an interim year to meet testing and training requirements.
- March 2002 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to comply with No Child Left Behind requirements.
- March 2003 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to comply with No Child Left Behind requirements.
- April 2004 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to clarify the experience admission requirement and expand the options for completing the college coursework required in PACE.
- July 2005 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to clarify the ADEPT requirement for PACE, to require grades for coursework in PACE as opposed to pass/fail status, and to define how a PACE participant can receive an extension to remain in the PACE program beyond three years.
- May 2006 The SBE revised guidelines to provide an alternative to the work-experience admission requirement (advanced degree).
- November 2007 The PACE Advisory Committee met to discuss the PACE Guidelines. Changes are proposed to the SBE related to admission criteria, required PACE coursework, and the PACE extension policy.
- April 2008 The SBE revised the PACE Guidelines to remove critical needs subject and geographic areas requirements and replace these with approved PACE subject areas.
- December 2015 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is signed by President Obama.
- March 2016 Alternative Certification team conducts review of PACE Guidelines to identify areas for update.
- May 2016 SCDE senior staff recommends elimination of the work-experience requirement for PACE participation.
- June 2016 PACE Guidelines presented to the Education Professions Committee for approval.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

**COST:** N/A  
**FUND/SOURCE:** N/A

## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachments:**  yes  no

**(attachments must be submitted with synopsis)**

**Name of Attachments:** Draft of the 2016 PACE Guidelines

**RECOMMENDATION**

The South Carolina Department of Education recommends SBE approval of the 2016 PACE Guidelines.

**ACTION REQUEST**

FOR APPROVAL:

FOR INFORMATION ONLY: