



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
Margaret M. O'Neill Bldg., Third Floor, Suite 1
410 Federal Street
Dover, Delaware 19901
302-739-3621


The Honorable John Carney,
Governor

John McNeal, Director
SCPD

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 29, 2022

TO: Delaware Department of Education
Office of the Secretary/Attn: Regulation Review

FROM: Benjamin Shrader, Chairperson 
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: Proposed DOE/Professional Standards Board Regulation on 14 DE Admin. Code 1575 [Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments, 26 Delaware Reg. of Regulations 364 (November 1, 2022)]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed the Professional Standards Board (“Board”) along with Delaware Department of Education (“DOE”) proposed amendments to 14 DE Admin. Code 1575 Teacher of Students with Visual Impairments (“Teacher”), and what is required for a Standard Certificate. The proposed regulations also reflect commitment to update standards per HB 382 which was enacted as a result of the sunset committee’s review of DVI. The proposed regulation was published as 26 DE Reg. 364 in the November 1, 2022, issue of the Register of Regulations.

SCPD has the following observations:

- The regulation affirms that a teacher must have certification if their primary assignment is teaching students with visual impairments in public schools.
- The routes to a Standard Certificate in this area are: 1) Exceptional Needs Specialist certification through National Board for Professional Teaching Standards; 2) BA or MA with minimum of 30 hours of coursework in teaching visually impaired students; 3) Completion of alternative routes to licensure or certification; or completion of Department approved education preparation program for instruction for visually impaired students; BA in any content area with 17 hours of specific courses listed in the regulation.
- Criminal history must be disclosed on the application or renewal of license.

- The Secretary of Education may approve a teacher who does not meet requirements on application of a district or charter school.

The SCPD Council would like to emphasize an objection to granting the Secretary the ability to override the certification requirements, as this is an area which requires a large degree of specialized skill and training.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions or comments regarding our observations or recommendations on the proposed regulation.

cc: Ms. Laura Waterland, Esq., DLP
SCPD Executive Committee
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

26 DE. Reg. 364 DDOE Teachers for Visually Impaired Students 11-29-22