

**Subject: Highly Qualified Teachers**

*Legal Reference:*

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-95)

No Child Left Behind of 2001 (Public Law 107-110)

## TECHNICAL ADVISORY ON HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS

As New Hampshire transitions from *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB) to the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), there are opportunities to improve current practice and innovate.

ESSA eliminates the Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) provision from the previous NCLB law for teachers. However, State certification requirements will still apply. Additionally, pedagogy and content knowledge continue to be important considerations for local education agencies as they recruit and hire candidates for open positions, determine priorities for professional learning, and determine ongoing supports for practicing teachers.

Ed 306.15 (e) requires the local school board to ensure each professional staff member is certified for his/her assignment. However, Ed 306.15 (g) provides that an educator with sufficient content knowledge may be given a minor assignment in which he or she is not certified. It is the responsibility of the principal to assess the content knowledge of the educator.

“Ed 306.15 (g) An educator with sufficient content knowledge as determined by the school principal may be given a minor assignment to teach in a program area in which he or she is not certified. A minor assignment shall be less than fifty percent of the individual’s weekly work time and be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that the individual has the appropriate level of content knowledge.”

Principals may assess the content knowledge of an educator using methods such as but not limited to:

- Subject/content area tests such as the Praxis II
- Transcript evaluation
- Previous HOUSSE plans and HQT assurances obtained under NCLB
- Evidence based assessment of content knowledge under Ed 507 (certification rules)

The individuals working as instructional paraeducators using Title I funds or in Title I school-wide schools must meet the requirements for certification as a Paraeducator II under Ed 504.05. This standard may be met through college coursework, achieving a passing score on the *Parapro* assessment, or utilizing a portfolio option.

Issued by:

*Frank Edelblut, Commissioner*

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NA

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