

STATE OF NEW YORK

9225

IN SENATE

May 12, 2022

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law and the tax law, in relation to enacting the public education racial equity and diversity act

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "public
2 education racial equity and diversity act".

3 § 2. Subdivision 6, paragraph (a) of subdivision 7, the opening para-
4 graph and paragraph (a) of subdivision 9, paragraph (a), the opening
5 paragraph of paragraph (b) and subparagraph (viii) of paragraph (c) of
6 subdivision 9-a of section 2852 of the education law, subdivision 6 as
7 added by chapter 4 of the laws of 1998, paragraph (a) of subdivision 7
8 as amended by section 2 of part D2 of chapter 57 of the laws of 2007,
9 the opening paragraph and paragraph (a) of subdivision 9 and paragraph
10 (a), the opening paragraph of paragraph (b) and subparagraph (viii) of
11 paragraph (c) of subdivision 9-a as amended by section 2 of subpart A of
12 part B of chapter 20 of the laws of 2015, are amended and a new subdivi-
13 sion 11 is added to read as follows:

14 6. The denial of an application, or the denial of a request for
15 revision to an application, for a charter school by a charter entity
16 shall be in writing and shall state the reasons for the denial.
17 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, such denial is
18 final and shall not be reviewable in any court or by any administrative
19 body with the exception of the New York state charter school commission
20 established pursuant to the provisions of subdivision eleven of this
21 section.

22 (a) A revision of a charter shall be made only upon the approval of
23 the charter entity and the board of regents in accordance with the
24 provisions of subdivisions five-a and five-b of this section, or as
25 authorized under subdivision eleven of this section.

26 The total number of charters issued pursuant to this article statewide
27 shall not exceed [~~four~~] seven hundred [~~sixty~~] ninety-six. (a) All char-
28 ters issued on or after July first, two thousand fifteen and counted

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 toward the numerical limits established by this subdivision shall be
2 issued by the board of regents upon application directly to the board of
3 regents or on the recommendation of the board of trustees of the state
4 university of New York pursuant to a competitive process in accordance
5 with subdivision nine-a of this section. Fifty of such charters issued
6 ~~[on or after]~~ between July first, two thousand fifteen and July first,
7 two thousand twenty-two, and no more, shall be granted to a charter for
8 a school to be located in a city having a population of one million or
9 more. To promote equity and diversity in educational leadership and
10 prioritize the issuance of new charters to community-based organizations
11 run by individuals from historically underrepresented communities, three
12 hundred thirty-six of such charters issued on or after July first, two
13 thousand twenty-two, and no more, shall be granted to a charter for a
14 school to be managed by a board of trustees and school-based management
15 or leadership team, where both of which will be comprised of at least
16 fifty-one percent of members who meet the ethnic definition of minority
17 group member set forth in article fifteen-A of the executive law. The
18 failure of any body to issue the regulations authorized pursuant to this
19 article shall not affect the authority of a charter entity to propose a
20 charter to the board of regents or the board of regents' authority to
21 grant such charter. A conversion of an existing public school to a char-
22 ter school, or the renewal or extension of a charter approved by any
23 charter entity, shall not be counted toward the numerical limits estab-
24 lished by this subdivision.

25 (a) The board of regents is hereby authorized and directed to issue
26 ~~[four]~~ seven hundred ~~[sixty]~~ ninety-six charters statewide upon either
27 applications submitted directly to the board of regents or upon the
28 recommendation of the board of trustees of the state university of New
29 York pursuant to a competitive request for proposals process.

30 The board of regents shall make a determination to issue a charter
31 pursuant to a request for proposals no later than December thirty-first
32 of each year.

33 The board of regents and the board of trustees of the state university
34 of New York shall each develop such request for proposals in a manner
35 that facilitates a thoughtful review of charter school applications,
36 considers the demand for charter schools by the community, promotes
37 equity and diversity in educational leadership, and seeks to locate
38 charter schools in a region or regions where there may be a lack of
39 alternatives and access to charter schools would provide new alterna-
40 tives within the local public education system that would offer the
41 greatest educational benefit to students. Applications shall be evalu-
42 ated in accordance with the criteria and objectives contained within a
43 request for proposals. The board of regents and the board of trustees of
44 the state university of New York shall not consider any applications
45 which do not rigorously demonstrate that they have met the following
46 criteria:

47 (viii) promoting diversity in educational leadership and increasing
48 the number of education leaders from historically underrepresented
49 communities by establishing a board of trustees and school-based manage-
50 ment or leadership team of at least fifty-one percent of members who
51 meet the ethnic definition of minority group member set forth in article
52 fifteen-A of the executive law;

53 (ix) demonstrating the support of the school district in which the
54 proposed charter school will be located and the intent to establish an
55 ongoing relationship with such school district.

11. (a) For the purposes of this subdivision the term "commission" shall mean the New York state charter school commission established pursuant to this subdivision. A New York state charter school commission is established as an independent commission with statewide chartering jurisdiction and authority. The commission shall only be under the authority of the board of regents for administrative purposes. The board of regents shall provide administrative support to the commission as needed and requested by the commission.

(b) The commission shall be responsible for approving charter schools statewide with a focus on approving charters to community-based organizations run by individuals from historically underrepresented communities.

(c) The commission shall consist of nine members to be comprised of three members proposed by the board of regents, three members proposed by the board of trustees of the state university of New York, and three members proposed by the governor. The board of regents shall approve these appointments subject to a majority vote of approval for each proposed appointee by the education committee for the Black, Puerto Rican and Asian legislative caucus of the New York state assembly, within sixty days after the effective date of this subdivision and sixty days prior to the expiration of the term of a member thereafter. If the board of regents, the board of trustees of the state university of New York, or the governor fails to timely propose a slate of candidates according to the provisions of this subdivision, then the education committee for Black, Puerto Rican and Asian legislative caucus of the New York state assembly shall appoint the member or members of the commission.

(d) Members appointed to the commission shall collectively possess strong experience and expertise in public and nonprofit governance, management and finance, public school leadership, higher education, assessments, curriculum and instruction, and public education law. All members of the commission shall have demonstrated understanding of and a commitment to public education, including without limitation charter schooling. At least six members shall have past experience with urban charter schools, and at least six members shall meet the ethnic definition of minority group member as defined in article fifteen-A of the executive law.

(e) To establish staggered terms of office, the initial term of office for three commission members shall be four years and thereafter shall be four years; the initial term of office for another three members shall be three years and thereafter shall be four years; and the initial term of office for the remaining three members shall be two years and thereafter shall be four years. The initial appointments shall be made no later than October first, two thousand twenty-two.

(f) Whenever a vacancy on the commission exists, the education committee for the Black, Puerto Rican and Asian legislative caucus of the New York state assembly shall appoint a member for the remaining portion of the term.

(g) The commission shall have the responsibility to review denials of applications as well as denials of requests for revisions to applications issued pursuant to subdivision six of this section upon receipt of written appeal from the denied applicant. Such responsibility takes effect immediately upon appointment of the initial members of the commission pursuant to paragraph (e) of this subdivision. Appeals pending at the time of initial appointment shall be determined by the commission. The commission may extend the time for review as necessary

1 for thorough review, but in no case shall the extension exceed the time
2 that would have been available had the appeal been submitted to the
3 commission on the date of appointment of its initial members. In any
4 appeal filed with the commission under this article, both the applicant
5 and the charter entity that issued the denial shall have the right to
6 request a hearing before the commission. If more than one entity
7 requests a hearing, then the commission shall hold only one hearing,
8 wherein the applicant and the charter entity shall have an equal oppor-
9 tunity to present their respective positions.

10 (h) Any charter school authorized by the commission shall have its
11 authorization transferred to the commission, which shall then become the
12 school's authorizer for all purposes under this article. Any charter
13 school authorized by charter entities other than the commission may seek
14 transfer of authorization to the commission during its current term with
15 the approval of a majority of the trustees or members of the board of
16 education for the school district in which the school is located. Notice
17 of a charter entity's decision to deny, revoke, or not renew a charter
18 shall be provided to the commission, as shall a charter entity's deci-
19 sion to deny a request for revision to an application for a charter
20 school. Upon receipt of written appeal from the denied applicant and in
21 accordance with paragraph (g) of this subdivision, the commission may
22 reverse a charter entity's decision if the commission finds that the
23 charter school, the charter school proposal, or the charter school's
24 request for a revision to its application is (i) in compliance with this
25 article; and (ii) in the best interests of the students it is designed
26 to serve.

27 (i) Notwithstanding other provisions of this article, if the commis-
28 sion on appeal reverses a charter entity's decision to deny, revoke, or
29 not renew a charter or a charter's request for revision to its applica-
30 tion, or if a charter school successfully seeks transfer of authori-
31 zation to the commission pursuant to paragraph (h) of this subdivision,
32 the commission shall act as the authorized chartering entity for the
33 charter school. The commission shall approve the charter or the request
34 for revision to the charter's application and shall perform all charter
35 entity functions set forth in this article.

36 § 3. Section 679-j of the education law, as added by section 1 of part
37 AA of chapter 56 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

38 § 679-j. The New York state teacher loan forgiveness program. 1.
39 Purpose. The president shall grant student loan forgiveness awards for
40 the purpose of increasing the number of teachers serving in the state,
41 generally, and the number of teachers serving in the state who meet the
42 ethnic definition of minority group member, specifically.

43 2. Eligibility. To be eligible for an award pursuant to this subdivi-
44 sion, applicants shall (a) be certified as a teacher; (b) be employed
45 full time in this state in an elementary or secondary school; (c) comply
46 with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred sixty-one of
47 this part; (d) have an outstanding student loan debt; and (e) meet one
48 of the following criteria:

49 (i) teach in a shortage subject area;
50 (ii) teach in a hard to staff district; ~~[or]~~
51 (iii) the applicant is economically disadvantaged, as defined by the
52 corporation~~[]~~; or

53 (iv) the applicant meets the ethnic definition of minority group
54 member as defined in article fifteen-A of the executive law.

55 3. Definitions. For the purposes of this section~~[]~~:

1 (a) the term "shortage subject area" shall mean a curriculum subject
2 matter or practice of teaching where there is a shortage of teachers in
3 New York state, as designated by the department~~[, and];~~;

4 (b) the term "hard to staff school districts" shall mean school
5 districts that have a shortage of teachers, as designated by the depart-
6 ment~~[,]; and~~

7 (c) the term "minority group member" shall mean a United States citi-
8 zen or permanent resident alien who is and can demonstrate membership in
9 one of the following groups:

10 (i) Black persons having origins in any of the Black African racial
11 groups;

12 (ii) Hispanic/Latino persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Dominican,
13 Cuban, Central or South American of either Indian or Hispanic origin,
14 regardless of race;

15 (iii) Native American or Alaskan native persons having origins in any
16 of the original peoples of North America;

17 (iv) Asian and Pacific Islander persons having origins in any of the
18 Far East countries, South East Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the
19 Pacific Islands.

20 4. Priority. Such awards shall be made annually to applicants in the
21 following priority:

22 (a) First priority shall be given to applicants who have received
23 payment of an award pursuant to this section in a prior year and who, in
24 the year prior to application, are teachers ~~[in]~~ (i) in a subject short-
25 age area, ~~[ex]~~ (ii) in a hard to staff school district, or (iii) who
26 meet the ethnic definition of minority group member;

27 (b) Second priority shall be given to applicants who have not received
28 payment of an award pursuant to this section in a prior year and who are
29 teachers ~~[in]~~ (i) in a subject shortage area, ~~[ex]~~ (ii) in hard to staff
30 school district, or (iii) who meet the ethnic definition of minority
31 group member in the year prior to such application; and

32 (c) Third priority shall be given to applicants who are economically
33 disadvantaged as defined by the corporation.

34 5. Awards. The corporation shall grant awards pursuant to the amount
35 appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds in an
36 amount up to ~~[five]~~ ten thousand dollars to individuals who are employed
37 full-time as teachers for the school year prior to such application,
38 provided that no recipient shall receive an award that exceeds the total
39 remaining balance of the student loan debt pursuant to this section~~[, in~~
40 ~~excess of twenty thousand dollars]~~.

41 6. Rules and regulations. The corporation is authorized to promulgate
42 rules and regulations and may promulgate emergency regulations necessary
43 for the implementation of the provisions of this section. In the event
44 that there are more applicants who have the same priority, as provided
45 in subdivision four of this section, than there are remaining awards,
46 the corporation shall provide in regulation the method of distributing
47 the remaining number of such awards, which may include a lottery or
48 other form of random selection.

49 § 4. The education law is amended by adding three new sections 3004-d,
50 3004-e and 3004-f to read as follows:

51 § 3004-d. Alternative teacher certification requirements. 1. Teacher
52 certification compliance. An education corporation may submit to their
53 charter authorizer and a district school may submit to its local educa-
54 tion agency as defined in section three thousand thirty-two of this
55 article, for approval of an instructional program as defined in subdivi-
56 sion two of this section for teachers who meet the ethnic definition of

1 minority group member set forth in article fifteen-A of the executive
2 law as well as the requirements set forth in this section. The require-
3 ments of an approved instructional program under this section shall be
4 considered equivalent to the certification requirements applicable to
5 other public schools of the state for the purposes of paragraph (a-1) of
6 subdivision three of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-four of this
7 chapter. For the purposes of this section the term "applicant" shall
8 refer to any education corporation or district school who submits for
9 approval of an instructional program pursuant to this section.

10 2. Instructional program. An applicant may at any time submit a
11 proposed instructional program to its charter authorizer or local educa-
12 tion agency for approval. If a charter authorizer has denied an applica-
13 tion or revoked or closed an instructional program, the applicant may
14 submit a revised proposed instructional program to its charter authoriz-
15 er or appeal the denial to the New York state charter school commission
16 established pursuant to subdivision eleven of section twenty-eight
17 hundred fifty-two of this chapter. In order to be eligible to apply, an
18 applicant shall be approved to operate at least one school. An instruc-
19 tional program shall not be eligible for approval unless it meets the
20 minimum requirements set forth in this section.

21 3. Academic success requirements. a. The applicant shall have a demon-
22 strated record of academic success as follows:

23 (i) For an education corporation, fifty percent of applicant's charter
24 schools with students participating in grades three through eight state
25 administered standardized English language arts and mathematic assess-
26 ments examinations shall have performed better on such examinations than
27 the district schools in the school districts in which the charter
28 schools are located;

29 (ii) For an education corporation that offers instruction in the high
30 school grades, such charter schools shall have met sixty percent of
31 their accountability plan pursuant to the performance agreement with
32 their charter authorizer; or

33 (iii) For an education corporation that offers instruction in grades
34 three through eight and the high school grades, the applicant's charter
35 authorizer shall weigh the grades accordingly; or

36 (iv) For district schools that primarily offers education to a special
37 population, including a student with disabilities or a student who is an
38 English language learner, such schools shall have performed better than
39 the students of the applicable special population in the school
40 districts in which the charter school is located and at least one of the
41 applicant's schools shall have received a renewal within the last five
42 years and if two or more education corporations are applying together,
43 at least one school from each education corporation shall meet the stan-
44 dard set forth in this subparagraph. For purposes of this subparagraph,
45 the school district in which a charter school is located shall mean, for
46 the city school district of the city of New York, the community district
47 in which a charter school is located.

48 b. An education corporation shall be authorized to contract with an
49 institution of higher education to provide an instructional program
50 pursuant to this section, provided however, that the institution of
51 higher education shall not have had a graduate-level teacher and leader
52 education program suspended or deregistered by the department at any
53 time.

54 c. The applicant shall maintain high standards for candidates includ-
55 ing completion of a master's degree in education or bachelor's degree or
56 higher in any subject area from an accredited institution with a cumula-

1 tive grade point average of 3.0 or higher, or its equivalent, or shall
2 have been found to have the necessary knowledge and skills to success-
3 fully complete the program as determined by its authorizer.

4 4. Certificate titles requirements. a. Certificate titles offered by
5 an instructional program may include, but are not limited to:

6 (i) Childhood education (pre-kindergarten through sixth grade);

7 (ii) Secondary education (fifth grade through twelfth grade) with
8 specialization in primary subject areas which may include, but are not
9 limited to:

10 (A) Humanities;

11 (B) Mathematics; and

12 (C) Science;

13 (iii) Childhood students with disabilities (pre-kindergarten through
14 sixth grade);

15 (iv) Secondary students with disabilities (fifth grade through twelfth
16 grade);

17 (v) Childhood English for speakers of other languages (pre-kindergar-
18 ten through sixth grade); and

19 (vi) Secondary English for speakers of other languages (fifth grade
20 through twelfth grade).

21 b. The instructional program shall include:

22 (i) One hundred sixty clock hours of classroom instruction content,
23 including content core study and pedagogical core study, which shall
24 provide the necessary knowledge base, understanding, and skills for
25 teaching students in the respective grade levels, and in the respective
26 subject areas, for the certification being sought. The one hundred sixty
27 clock hours are in addition to any credit hours earned by candidates as
28 part of the required bachelor's degree referenced in paragraph c of
29 subdivision three of this section. For the purposes of this subparagraph
30 "classroom instruction content" shall include curriculum and content
31 specific to the certification being sought, instructional strategies and
32 planning, classroom and behavioral management, and shall be designed to
33 prepare candidates to instruct students with a range of abilities and
34 differentiate instruction to enhance the learning of all students in the
35 content areas of the certificate. A candidate may seek dual certif-
36 ication in two different titles, for which the one hundred sixty total
37 clock hours shall be appropriate for the dual titles being sought. If
38 one of the titles sought is students with disabilities, at least twenty
39 of the one hundred sixty clock hours shall include the additional
40 students with disabilities training required pursuant to paragraph e of
41 this section.

42 (ii) Forty clock hours of field experience appropriate to the certif-
43 ication being sought, with at least six of the forty hours focused on
44 meeting the needs of students with disabilities, with the candidate
45 primarily responsible for classroom instruction, and under supervision
46 of an experienced teacher with the following qualifications:

47 (A) certified in the subject, area or grade range of instruction, as
48 applicable; or

49 (B) uncertified teachers who:

50 (1) have at least three years of satisfactory elementary, middle or
51 secondary classroom experience; or

52 (2) are tenured, tenure track or adjunct college faculty; or

53 (3) have two years of satisfactory experience through the Teach for
54 America program or similar programs as determined by the applicant's
55 authorizer.

1 c. A candidate may seek a dual certification in two different titles,
2 for which the candidate shall complete forty total field hours, with
3 approximately one-half of such field hours focused on each certification
4 title sought.

5 d. Candidates teaching within the initial three-year period of certifi-
6 cation shall receive periodic mentoring by a principal, assistant prin-
7 cipal, a teacher qualified to oversee field experience pursuant to
8 subparagraph (ii) of paragraph b of this subdivision, or a qualified
9 instructional program instructor pursuant to paragraph e of this subdivi-
10 vision which shall be designed to meet the individual learning needs of
11 the candidate.

12 e. The following additional coursework shall also be included in the
13 instructional program if such coursework is necessary for the titles
14 sought:

15 (i) Completion of a workshop approved by the department on the proper
16 process to report child abuse and neglect in accordance with subdivision
17 two of section three thousand four of this article;

18 (ii) Completion of a workshop approved by the department on school
19 violence intervention and prevention in accordance with subdivision
20 three of section three thousand four of this article;

21 (iii) Six clock hours of coursework or training on harassment, bully-
22 ing and discrimination prevention and intervention, as such terms are
23 defined in section eleven of this chapter in accordance with the
24 purposes of subdivision five of section fourteen of this chapter; and/or

25 (iv) For candidates seeking certification in students with disabili-
26 ties or English for speakers of other languages, classroom instruction
27 shall focus on developing knowledge, understanding, and skills for
28 teaching students with disabilities or students who are English
29 language learners, respectively, including enhanced coursework or train-
30 ing. Field experience shall be completed under the supervision of a
31 teacher certified in students with disabilities or English for speakers
32 of other languages, respectively, and the candidate seeking certifi-
33 cation shall spend:

34 (A) For students with disabilities, a majority of a candidate's expe-
35 rience hours shall be in an integrated co-teaching classroom or a class-
36 room otherwise providing special services or programs as such term is
37 defined in section forty-four hundred one of this chapter;

38 (B) For English for speakers of other languages, a majority of candi-
39 date's required forty clock hours of field experience in a bilingual
40 education, English as a new language or integrated English as a new
41 language classroom as such terms are defined in part one hundred fifty-
42 four of title eight of the New York codes, rules and regulations or an
43 equivalent classroom providing services to students who are English
44 language learners;

45 (C) For students with disabilities, in addition to the forty hours of
46 required field experience, an additional forty hours observing and work-
47 ing with students with an individualized education program;

48 (D) For English for speakers of other languages, in addition to the
49 forty clock hours of required field experience, an additional forty
50 clock hours observing and working with students who are English language
51 learners as such term is defined in section 154-2.2 of title eight of
52 the New York codes, rules and regulations; and

53 (E) For students with disabilities, at least ten clock hours of
54 coursework or training in the law, regulations and appropriate tech-
55 niques to address discipline of students with disabilities in accordance

1 with the individuals with disabilities education act and any regulations
2 promulgated thereunder.

3 f. An instructional program instructor shall:

4 (i) be a classroom teacher who has earned at least a bachelor's degree
5 from an accredited institution and has two years teaching experience;

6 (ii) be an administrator of the applicant who either:

7 (A) previously worked as a classroom teacher who would have qualified
8 as instructors under subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; or

9 (B) is a school administrator; or

10 (iii) has the expertise, advanced study, or licensure appropriate to
11 the field to teach effectively the course to which they are assigned in
12 the appropriate depth and breadth as determined by the department.

13 Individuals qualified under this subparagraph shall be eligible only to
14 teach a portion of the instructional program limited to the course in
15 which they hold such expertise, advanced study, or licensure. Eligibil-
16 ity of an individual to teach such course shall be subject to prior
17 approval by the applicant's authorizer.

18 g. Candidates enrolled in an instructional program shall be regularly
19 assessed on all aspects of the proposed course of study. Assessment
20 methods may include, but need not be limited to, testing, portfolio
21 reviews, or demonstration of pedagogical knowledge and skills, and shall
22 include a final assessment utilizing one or more such method to deter-
23 mine whether the candidate has satisfactorily demonstrated the competen-
24 cies included in the instructional program. Such final assessment may be
25 either the state teacher certification examination, the educating all
26 students test, or an examination which measures, at a minimum, all
27 required elements of the educating all students test, and is approved by
28 the department. For a candidate seeking certification in students with
29 disabilities, such candidate shall be additionally assessed with the New
30 York state content specialty test in students with disabilities or an
31 examination which measures, at a minimum, all required elements of the
32 content specialty test, and is approved by the applicant's authorizer.

33 5. Approval of instructional program. a. Applicants may submit
34 proposed instructional programs to their authorizers. Such proposals
35 shall include information explaining the need for the instructional
36 program and shall specify how the proposed instructional program will
37 meet the requirements of this section including by providing:

38 (i) Proof that the applicant has a demonstrated record of success;

39 (ii) A list of the certificates that will be offered by the appli-
40 cant's instructional program;

41 (iii) The required candidate qualifications;

42 (iv) The qualifications of instructional program instructors;

43 (v) The requirements for certification as a "certified intern teach-
44 er";

45 (vi) The competencies required for each certificate offered;

46 (vii) An overview of the classroom instruction to be offered as part
47 of the instructional program including how program instructors will
48 train candidates on how to teach students critical thinking skills; and

49 (viii) The assessment methods to be used including the final assess-
50 ment.

51 b. A proposed instructional program shall be approved or denied within
52 ninety days of submission to the applicant's authorizer. If the appli-
53 cant's authorizer does not approve an instructional program within the
54 timeframe set forth in this paragraph, the application shall be automat-
55 ically approved. The authorizer may, but is not required to, permit the
56 applicant to amend the application during or after the review period.

1 The authorizer shall state the general reasons for a denial of an appli-
2 cation in writing. There shall be no review of a denial by the committee
3 or the board of trustees except as consistent with subdivision eleven of
4 section twenty-eight hundred fifty-two of this chapter.

5 c. Once the authorizer approves an applicant's instructional program,
6 the applicant shall commence instruction of candidates in accordance
7 with the application and the requirements of this section.

8 d. The requirements of an approved instructional program shall be
9 considered equivalent to the certification requirements applicable to
10 other public schools of the state for purposes of paragraph (a-1) of
11 subdivision three of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-four of this
12 chapter.

13 6. Teacher Certifications. a. A teacher enrolled in an approved
14 instructional program shall be granted certification in the following
15 manner and subject to the following conditions:

16 (i) If a candidate teacher is making adequate progress toward meeting
17 the requirements of an approved instructional program, the candidate
18 shall be eligible to receive a certificate as a "certified intern teach-
19 er" so long as the candidate stays enrolled in the instructional program
20 and the applicant has specified in its application what constitutes
21 "adequate progress" as defined by the department for purposes of this
22 subparagraph. A certified intern teacher's certificate shall be valid
23 for no longer than six months from the date it is granted, provided that
24 such certificate may be renewed if the candidate teacher is still
25 enrolled in the instructional program. To receive such certificate, an
26 approved applicant shall submit the names of candidate teachers who
27 qualify to the authorizer, whereupon such candidate teachers shall be
28 issued such certificate. The applicant shall certify as to the truthfulness
29 of such submission and shall retain all responsibility and liability
30 resulting from such approval; or

31 (ii) If a candidate teacher has met the requirements of an approved
32 instructional program in one or more of the titles designated in subdivi-
33 sion four of this section shall be eligible to receive a teacher's
34 certificate for such title or titles. To receive such certificate, the
35 candidate teacher shall submit documentation thereof to an approved
36 applicant, which shall approve or deny the teacher candidate for certif-
37 ication within sixty days of submission. Such determination will be
38 based on:

39 (A) A review of submitted documentation demonstrating that the candi-
40 date teacher has completed an approved instructional program for the
41 title or titles sought;

42 (B) A review of the results of a criminal history record search of the
43 candidate teacher performed by the department at the direction of an
44 education corporation as required under paragraph (a-2) of subdivision
45 three of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-four of this chapter. For
46 purposes of this section, the term "criminal history record" shall mean
47 a record of all convictions of crimes and any pending criminal charges
48 maintained on an individual by the division of criminal justice services
49 and the federal bureau of investigation; and

50 (C) A recommendation from the approved instructional program certify-
51 ing that the candidate teacher has satisfactorily demonstrated the
52 competencies required by the instructional program. For candidate teach-
53 ers seeking certification as a students with disabilities teacher or an
54 English for speakers of other languages teacher, such recommendation
55 will specifically certify that the candidate teacher has satisfactorily
56 demonstrated the competencies required by the instructional program to

1 teach students with disabilities or students who are English language
2 learners, respectively.

3 b. The approved applicant shall submit the names and supporting
4 documentation of all candidate teachers approved to the applicant's
5 charter authorizer, whereupon such candidate teachers will be issued
6 such certificate. The applicant shall certify as to the validity of such
7 approval for certification under this subdivision and shall retain all
8 responsibility and liability resulting from such approval.

9 c. Notwithstanding subdivision one of this section, a teacher holding
10 a valid teaching certificate in good standing issued by another state
11 that substantially complies with all other requirements of this section
12 shall be eligible to receive a teacher's certificate pursuant to this
13 section without participation in an approved instructional program.

14 d. The certification created by this section shall be transferrable to
15 another education corporation or district school even if the transferee
16 school does not have an approved instructional program.

17 e. A teacher's certificate issued pursuant to this section shall
18 expire three years from the date it is granted. In the case of a teacher
19 who obtains an intern teacher's certificate prior to obtaining a teach-
20 er's certificate, the period of time teaching under the intern teacher's
21 certificate prior to obtaining a full teacher's certificate shall be
22 included for purposes of calculating the three-year period. Such certif-
23 ication may be renewed and remain valid provided that:

24 (i) The teacher is employed by a charter school issued pursuant to
25 article fifty-six of this chapter or a district school; and

26 (ii) The employing education corporation submits to its authorizer, or
27 in the case of a district school its local education agency, a recommen-
28 dation for certification renewal based on its review of the teacher's
29 performance over the course of his or her employment at the education
30 corporation or district school.

31 f. An applicant shall obtain a signed affirmation from each candidate
32 acknowledging that the candidate has been informed by the applicant and
33 is aware that the certification the candidate will receive pursuant to
34 this section is not transferrable to any education corporation or char-
35 ter school not authorized by an authorized New York charter entity or in
36 the case of a district school approved for transfer by its local educa-
37 tion agency. Such executed affirmation shall be obtained upon enrollment
38 in an approved instructional program and shall be retained by the appli-
39 cant for a period of not less than ten years from the date of the latest
40 certificate issuance.

41 7. Accounting. Each applicant with an approved instructional program
42 shall reflect the budgeted costs for the instructional program separate-
43 ly in its annual budget, and specifically account for the costs thereof
44 in its financial statements. Applicants shall not charge employees or
45 others for access to their instructional programs.

46 8. Accountability and revocation. a. Each applicant shall be account-
47 able for the quality of its instructional programs leading to exemption
48 from certification. Charter entities and local education agencies
49 reserve the right to independently assess and monitor all approved
50 instructional programs and may revoke approval at any time. Failure to
51 comply with any provision of this section may result in revocation of
52 the approval.

53 b. Notice of intent to revoke approval shall be provided to the appli-
54 cant at least thirty days prior to the effective date of the proposed
55 revocation. Such notice shall include a statement of reasons for the
56 proposed revocation. A school closure for academic reasons shall be

1 deemed notice of intent to review and possibly revoke the approval of an
2 instructional program.

3 c. If applicable, the applicant shall be allowed at least thirty days
4 to correct the problems associated with the proposed revocation. Non-
5 curable causes of revocation include, but are not limited to, fraud,
6 creation of false business records and obstruction of investigation or
7 monitoring by the applicant's authorizer. Prior to revocation of the
8 approval, an applicant shall be provided an opportunity to be heard by
9 the applicant's authorizer, consistent with the requirements of due
10 process. There shall be no appeal of such determination to the committee
11 or the board of trustees except in accordance with subdivision eleven
12 of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-two of this chapter.

13 § 3004-e. Record keeping requirements. 1. Records and information
14 regarding an applicant's instructional program pursuant to section three
15 thousand four-d of this article shall be maintained by the applicant.
16 Upon request by the applicant's authorizer, such records and information
17 shall be available for inspection, or for delivery of copies to the
18 applicant's authorizer. The applicant shall also grant its authorizer
19 access to any electronic databases where records or information are
20 stored regardless of whether the applicant is the custodian of such
21 information.

22 2. Such records shall include, but not be limited to:

23 a. Candidate records including, but not limited to:

24 (i) clock hour attendance;

25 (ii) clock hour instructors;

26 (iii) student teaching dates and classes;

27 (iv) student teaching clock hour accumulation;

28 (v) student teaching instructors;

29 (vi) workshop attendance records;

30 (vii) records reflecting the number of years of teaching experience;

31 (viii) college transcripts;

32 (ix) records reflecting whether a candidate is making adequate
33 progress in the instructional program pursuant to section three thousand
34 four-d of this article; and

35 (x) the date of completion of the instructional program and the title
36 of certification earned;

37 b. Instructor qualification records including, but not limited to:

38 (i) college transcripts;

39 (ii) records reflecting the number of years of teaching experience;

40 (iii) teacher certification records; and

41 (iv) certification records; and

42 c. Records regarding institutions of higher education and outside
43 vendors used as part of the instructional program pursuant to section
44 three thousand four-d of this article including, but not limited to,
45 contracts and financial records.

46 3. Each applicant shall provide teachers and former teachers with
47 copies of any certification records pursuant to this section, and at no
48 more than the cost set forth in the state freedom of information law.

49 4. An applicant shall store certification records for a minimum of ten
50 years.

51 § 3004-f. Additional provisions regarding instructional programs. 1.
52 Limitations and conditions. Sections three thousand four-d and three
53 thousand four-e of this article shall not affect any certification
54 approved by the department nor shall it waive any conditions imposed on
55 holders of such teacher certifications. All teachers in education corpo-
56 rations shall continue to comply with the conditions in an education

1 corporation's charter agreement and any conditions imposed by sections
2 three thousand four-d and three thousand four-e of this article, includ-
3 ing but not limited to the criminal background check requirements.

4 2. Teachers of record. Whether or not an education corporation oper-
5 ates an instructional program, when the applicant's authorizer reviews
6 teacher certification, the authorizer will continue to use the concept
7 of a teacher of record for a classroom of students. By whatever name, if
8 one instructional leader of a classroom is properly certified or exempt
9 from certification under section three thousand four-d of this article,
10 the other teachers or adults in the classroom, however designated, are
11 not also required to be certified or exempt from certification for the
12 same group of students.

13 3. Non-material revision. The approval, revocation or voluntary cessa-
14 tion of an instructional program shall not be a material revision to the
15 charter of the applicant requiring formal revision under subdivision
16 seven of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-two of this chapter.

17 § 4. Subsection (i) of section 601 of the tax law is relettered
18 subsection (j) and a new subsection (i) is added to read as follows:

19 (i) To increase the number of minority teachers serving the state's
20 significantly high-need schools, qualifying individuals shall be eligi-
21 ble for income tax exemption in accordance with the following:

22 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a), (b), (c) and
23 (d) of this section and any other provision of this article, for taxable
24 years beginning after January first, two thousand twenty-three, one
25 hundred percent of the gross income shall be exempt from tax under this
26 article as well as all other local taxes regardless of whether such
27 income is subject to federal income taxation to each resident of the
28 state who has qualifying service in the taxable year for which the
29 exemption is claimed.

30 (2) For the purposes of this subsection, "qualifying service" shall
31 mean a service provided by a person who:

32 (A) is certified as a teacher;

33 (B) is employed full time in this state in an elementary or secondary
34 school that has been designated as a "significantly high-need school",
35 as defined in section thirty-six hundred fourteen of the education law;

36 (C) complied with subdivisions three and five of section six hundred
37 sixty-one of the education law; and

38 (D) meets the ethnic definition of minority group member as defined
39 in article fifteen-A of the executive law.

40 § 5. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application
41 of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not
42 affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act,
43 or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be
44 given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the
45 provisions and applications of this act are severable.

46 § 6. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
47 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or
48 repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of
49 this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed
50 on or before such effective date.