

STATE OF NEW YORK

4105

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. DICKENS -- read once and referred 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (b) The commission shall be responsible for approving charter schools
13 statewide with a focus on approving charters to community-based organ-
14 izations run by individuals from historically underrepresented communi-
15 ties.

16 (c) The commission shall consist of nine members to be comprised of
17 three members proposed by the board of regents, three members proposed
18 by the board of trustees of the state university of New York, and three
19 members proposed by the governor. The board of regents shall approve
20 these appointments subject to a majority vote of approval for each
21 proposed appointee by the education committee for the Black, Puerto
22 Rican and Asian legislative caucus of the New York state assembly, with-
23 in sixty days after the effective date of this subdivision and sixty
24 days prior to the expiration of the term of a member thereafter. If the
25 board of regents, the board of trustees of the state university of New
26 York, or the governor fails to timely propose a slate of candidates
27 according to the provisions of this subdivision, then the education
28 committee for Black, Puerto Rican and Asian legislative caucus of the
29 New York state assembly shall appoint the member or members of the
30 commission.

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

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

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

52 (g) The commission shall have the responsibility to review denials of
53 applications as well as denials of requests for revisions to applica-
54 tions issued pursuant to subdivision six of this section upon receipt of
55 written appeal from the denied applicant. Such responsibility takes
56 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 for thorough review, but in no case shall the extension exceed the time that would have been available had the appeal been submitted to the commission on the date of appointment of its initial members. In any appeal filed with the commission under this article, both the applicant and the charter entity that issued the denial shall have the right to request a hearing before the commission. If more than one entity requests a hearing, then the commission shall hold only one hearing, wherein the applicant and the charter entity shall have an equal opportunity to present their respective positions.

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

(i) Notwithstanding other provisions of this article, if the commission on appeal reverses a charter entity's decision to deny, revoke, or not renew a charter or a charter's request for revision to its application, or if a charter school successfully seeks transfer of authorization to the commission pursuant to paragraph (h) of this subdivision, the commission shall act as the authorized chartering entity for the charter school. The commission shall approve the charter or the request for revision to the charter's application and shall perform all charter entity functions set forth in this article.

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

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

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

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

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

3. Definitions. For the purposes of this section~~[7]~~:

(a) the term "shortage subject area" shall mean a curriculum subject matter or practice of teaching where there is a shortage of teachers in New York state, as designated by the department~~[7 and]~~;

(b) the term "hard to staff school districts" shall mean school districts that have a shortage of teachers, as designated by the department~~[7]~~; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Awards. The corporation shall grant awards pursuant to the amount appropriated for such purpose and based on availability of funds in an amount up to ~~[five]~~ ten thousand dollars to individuals who are employed full-time as teachers for the school year prior to such application, provided that no recipient shall receive an award that exceeds the total remaining balance of the student loan debt pursuant to this section~~[7 in excess of twenty thousand dollars]~~.

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

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

§ 3004-d. Alternative teacher certification requirements. 1. Teacher certification compliance. An education corporation may submit to their charter authorizer and a district school may submit to its local educa-

tion agency as defined in section three thousand thirty-two of this article, for approval of an instructional program as defined in subdivision two of this section for teachers who meet the ethnic definition of minority group member set forth in article fifteen-A of the executive law as well as the requirements set forth in this section. The requirements of an approved instructional program under this section shall be considered equivalent to the certification requirements applicable to other public schools of the state for the purposes of paragraph (a-1) of subdivision three of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-four of this chapter. For the purposes of this section the term "applicant" shall refer to any education corporation or district school who submits for approval of an instructional program pursuant to this section.

2. Instructional program. An applicant may at any time submit a proposed instructional program to its charter authorizer or local education agency for approval. If a charter authorizer has denied an application or revoked or closed an instructional program, the applicant may submit a revised proposed instructional program to its charter authorizer or appeal the denial to the New York state charter school commission established pursuant to subdivision eleven of section twenty-eight hundred fifty-two of this chapter. In order to be eligible to apply, an applicant shall be approved to operate at least one school. An instructional program shall not be eligible for approval unless it meets the minimum requirements set forth in this section.

3. Academic success requirements. a. The applicant shall have a demonstrated record of academic success as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

1 c. The applicant shall maintain high standards for candidates includ-
2 ing completion of a master's degree in education or bachelor's degree or
3 higher in any subject area from an accredited institution with a cumula-
4 tive grade point average of 3.0 or higher, or its equivalent, or shall
5 have been found to have the necessary knowledge and skills to success-
6 fully complete the program as determined by its authorizer.

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

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

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

13 (A) Humanities;

14 (B) Mathematics; and

15 (C) Science;

16 (iii) Childhood students with disabilities (pre-kindergarten through
17 sixth grade);

18 (iv) Secondary students with disabilities (fifth grade through twelfth
19 grade);

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

22 (vi) Secondary English for speakers of other languages (fifth grade
23 through twelfth grade).

24 b. The instructional program shall include:

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

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

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

52 (B) uncertified teachers who:

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

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

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

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

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

15 e. The following additional coursework shall also be included in the
16 instructional program if such coursework is necessary for the titles
17 sought:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(E) For students with disabilities, at least ten clock hours of coursework or training in the law, regulations and appropriate techniques to address discipline of students with disabilities in accordance with the individuals with disabilities education act and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

f. An instructional program instructor shall:

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

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

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

(B) is a school administrator; or

(iii) has the expertise, advanced study, or licensure appropriate to the field to teach effectively the course to which they are assigned in the appropriate depth and breadth as determined by the department. Individuals qualified under this subparagraph shall be eligible only to teach a portion of the instructional program limited to the course in which they hold such expertise, advanced study, or licensure. Eligibility of an individual to teach such course shall be subject to prior approval by the applicant's authorizer.

g. Candidates enrolled in an instructional program shall be regularly assessed on all aspects of the proposed course of study. Assessment methods may include, but need not be limited to, testing, portfolio reviews, or demonstration of pedagogical knowledge and skills, and shall include a final assessment utilizing one or more such method to determine whether the candidate has satisfactorily demonstrated the competencies included in the instructional program. Such final assessment may be either the state teacher certification examination, the educating all students test, or an examination which measures, at a minimum, all required elements of the educating all students test, and is approved by the department. For a candidate seeking certification in students with disabilities, such candidate shall be additionally assessed with the New York state content specialty test in students with disabilities or an examination which measures, at a minimum, all required elements of the content specialty test, and is approved by the applicant's authorizer.

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

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

(ii) A list of the certificates that will be offered by the applicant's instructional program;

(iii) The required candidate qualifications;

(iv) The qualifications of instructional program instructors;

(v) The requirements for certification as a "certified intern teacher";

(vi) The competencies required for each certificate offered;

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

(viii) The assessment methods to be used including the final assessment.

b. A proposed instructional program shall be approved or denied within ninety days of submission to the applicant's authorizer. If the applicant's authorizer does not approve an instructional program within the

1 timeframe set forth in this paragraph, the application shall be automat-
2 ically approved. The authorizer may, but is not required to, permit the
3 applicant to amend the application during or after the review period.
4 The authorizer shall state the general reasons for a denial of an appli-
5 cation in writing. There shall be no review of a denial by the committee
6 or the board of trustees except as consistent with subdivision eleven of
7 section twenty-eight hundred fifty-two of this chapter.

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

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

16 6. Teacher certifications. a. A teacher enrolled in an approved
17 instructional program shall be granted certification in the following
18 manner and subject to the following conditions:

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

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

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

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

53 (C) A recommendation from the approved instructional program certify-
54 ing that the candidate teacher has satisfactorily demonstrated the
55 competencies required by the instructional program. For candidate teach-
56 ers seeking certification as a students with disabilities teacher or an

1 English for speakers of other languages teacher, such recommendation
2 will specifically certify that the candidate teacher has satisfactorily
3 demonstrated the competencies required by the instructional program to
4 teach students with disabilities or students who are English language
5 learners, respectively.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 b. Notice of intent to revoke approval shall be provided to the appli-
2 cant at least thirty days prior to the effective date of the proposed
3 revocation. Such notice shall include a statement of reasons for the
4 proposed revocation. A school closure for academic reasons shall be
5 deemed notice of intent to review and possibly revoke the approval of an
6 instructional program.

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

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

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

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

28 (i) clock hour attendance;

29 (ii) clock hour instructors;

30 (iii) student teaching dates and classes;

31 (iv) student teaching clock hour accumulation;

32 (v) student teaching instructors;

33 (vi) workshop attendance records;

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

35 (viii) college transcripts;

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

39 (x) the date of completion of the instructional program and the title
40 of certification earned;

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

42 (i) college transcripts;

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

44 (iii) teacher certification records; and

45 (iv) certification records; and

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

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

53 4. An applicant shall store certification records for a minimum of ten
54 years.

55 § 3004-f. Additional provisions regarding instructional programs. 1.
56 Limitations and conditions. Sections three thousand four-d and three

1 thousand four-e of this article shall not affect any certification
2 approved by the department nor shall it waive any conditions imposed on
3 holders of such teacher certifications. All teachers in education corpo-
4 rations shall continue to comply with the conditions in an education
5 corporation's charter agreement and any conditions imposed by sections
6 three thousand four-d and three thousand four-e of this article, includ-
7 ing but not limited to the criminal background check requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

36 (A) is certified as a teacher;

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

40 (C) complied with subdivision five of section six hundred sixty-one of
41 the education law; and

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

44 § 6. Severability. If any provision of this act, or any application
45 of any provision of this act, is held to be invalid, that shall not
46 affect the validity or effectiveness of any other provision of this act,
47 or of any other application of any provision of this act, which can be
48 given effect without that provision or application; and to that end, the
49 provisions and applications of this act are severable.

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