

# STATE OF NEW YORK

6296

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

## IN SENATE

March 10, 2025

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

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to admission requirements for graduate-level teacher and educational leader programs

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

1 Section 1. Section 210-a of the education law, as separately amended  
2 by chapters 620 and 626 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as  
3 follows:  
4 § 210-a. Admission requirements for graduate-level teacher and educa-  
5 tional leader programs. Each institution registered by the department  
6 with graduate-level teacher and leader education programs shall adopt  
7 rigorous selection criteria geared to predicting a candidate's academic  
8 success in its program, including but not limited to, achievement of a  
9 cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher in the candidate's  
10 undergraduate program or deemed qualified by teacher education and  
11 educational leader faculty to satisfy alternative criteria, including,  
12 but not limited to, the following: 3.0 grade point average in the major  
13 or in the last two years of college or in a graduate degree program or  
14 graduate-level courses taken before matriculation into a graduate  
15 program; or, strength of letters of recommendations from qualified indi-  
16 viduals, number of languages spoken, strength of a personal interview  
17 and quality of a writing sample. Each program may exempt up to fifty  
18 percent of any incoming class of students from such selection criteria  
19 set forth in this section based on a student's demonstration of poten-  
20 tial to positively contribute to the teaching profession or other exten-  
21 uating circumstances pursuant to the regulations of the commissioner. A  
22 program shall report to the department the number of students admitted  
23 pursuant to such exemption and the selection criteria used for such  
24 exemptions.  
25 § 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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

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