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| **Advisory Board on Teacher Education**  **and Licensure** |

**AGENDA ITEM: 3**

**DATE: January 31, 2022**

# TOPIC: Review of Amendments to the *Licensure Regulations for School* *Personnel* to Comport with American Sign Language National Certifications

**Background:**

Current *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* [(8VAC20-23)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/) provide the requirements for individuals seeking an endorsement in American Sign Language. The prescribed national certifications issued by several recognized organizations are not current.

The proposed amendments to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* recognize the changes that have been made by the national organizations and incorporates language to allow for changes in the future without compromising high standards. These amendments will follow the fast-track rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Process Act (APA). [§ 2.2-4012.1](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title2.2/chapter40/section2.2-4012.1/) of the *Code of Virginia* provides that the fast-track rulemaking process may be followed for rules that are expected to be noncontroversial.

**Statutory Authority:**

[Section 22.1-298.1 **o**](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title22.1/chapter15/section22.1-298.1/#:%7E:text=Regulations%20governing%20licensure.,A.&text=The%20Board%20of%20Education%20shall,required%20to%20hold%20a%20license.)**f the *Code of Virginia* provides, in part:**

B. The Board of Education shall prescribe, by regulation, the requirements for the licensure of teachers and other school personnel required to hold a license.

The Board’s *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* set out licensure requirements for

Virginia’s public school personnel. Specifically, Chapter 23 Section 360 provides the endorsement requirements for foreign language preK-12 – American Sign Language. The regulations are not current as the national certifications prescribed have been changed by the issuing organization. The American Sign Language Teachers' Association has changed the names and structure of their certifications, as has Registry of Interpreters for Deaf. In addition,

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Registry of Interpreters for Deaf have also incorporated the National Association for the Deaf certifications because the National Association for the Deaf does not issue certifications anymore. These updates within the national organizations require the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* [(8VAC20-23-360)](https://law.lis.virginia.gov/admincode/title8/agency20/chapter23/section360/) to be amended as follows:

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| D. Endorsement requirements for foreign language preK-12 - American Sign Language. […]  2. Native users or candidates who have learned American Sign Language without formal academic credit in a regionally accredited college or university, as explained in subdivision 1 of this subsection, shall complete the following requirements:  a. Competency in American Sign Language demonstrated by written documentation of one of the  following:   1. Hold a current, valid ~~Provisional, Qualified, or Professional~~ certification *issued* by the   American Sign Language Teachers' Association; or   1. Hold one of the following current, valid national certificates in interpreting: *a current, valid certification issued by the* *Registry of Interpreters for Deaf* *or certifications that were previously issued by Registry of Interpreters for Deaf for which exams are no longer available; or* ~~(a) Registry of Interpreters for Deaf certification in at least one of the following:~~   ~~Certificate of~~ ~~Interpretation (CI), Certificate of Deaf Interpretation (CDI), Reverse Skills~~ ~~Certification (RSC),~~ ~~or Comprehensive Skills Certificate (CSC);~~   1. ~~A current, valid National Association for the Deaf Level IV certification or higher; or~~ 2. ~~A National Interpreter Certification (NIC); or~~   (3) Complete requirements by achieving a qualifying score on an assessment demonstrating proficiency in American Sign Language prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education.  b. A minimum of 3 semester hours of methods of teaching foreign languages at the elementary and secondary levels from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States; and c. A minimum of 6 semester hours in coursework, including grammar and syntax of American Sign Language. |

**Action:**

The Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure is to make a recommendation to the Board of Education to approve amendments to the *Licensure Regulations for School Personnel* to comport with American Sign Language national certifications.

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