


**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education

**FROM:** Carey M. Wright, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools 

**DATE:** January 28, 2025

**SUBJECT:** COMAR 13A.07.06.08 *Definitions*  
COMAR 13A.07.06.08 *State Program Approval Requirements*  
**Permission to Adopt**

### Executive Summary

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) is recommending amendments to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 13A.07.06.02 *Definitions* and 13A.07.06.08 *State Program Approval Requirements* to align the language with Md., Code Education §6-120, §6-125, and §6-126, which were modified during the 2023 and 2024 Maryland Legislative Sessions.

The Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board (PSTEB) and State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted new program approval regulations in November and December 2023, respectively. Since its adoption, the MSDE has identified areas in the regulations that require further alignment to newly adopted laws.

On June 6, 2024, and June 25, 2024, the PSTEB and SBOE, respectively, granted permission to publish amendments to COMAR 13A.07.06.08. The amendments were published in the Maryland Register for 30 days to solicit public comment. One public comment was received regarding COMAR 13A.07.06.02 *Definitions*. The comment suggested that the definition of “alternative teacher preparation program” include language stating that programs must be approved by the Maryland Higher Education Commission. The amended definition of “alternative teacher preparation program” is exactly as written in Maryland statute. Additionally, COMAR 13A.07.06.04 states the following:

*An individual, public or private educational association, corporation, or institution of higher education may not offer an educator preparation program without obtaining the permission of the Commission and the Department by meeting the requirements of this chapter.*

For these reasons, the MSDE is not recommending the Board make substantive changes at this time. On December 5, 2024, PSTEB passed a motion to adopt the amendments to COMAR 13A.07.06.02 *Definitions* and 13A.07.06.08 *State Program Approval Requirements*.

**Background and Process**

Under Maryland law, the PSTEB shares joint authority with the SBOE to develop regulations governing teacher certification and preparation. When the PSTEB initiates a regulatory change, the SBOE must also review the proposed regulation. If a majority of the SBOE members approve of the regulation, the regulation promulgation process continues.

After the PSTEB and SBOE vote to approve a regulation, the proposed regulation is sent to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee (AELR) for a 15-day review period. If the AELR Committee does not hold up the proposed regulation for further review, it is published in the Maryland Register for a 30-day public comment period. At the end of the comment period, Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) staff reviews and summarizes the public comments, which are presented to both boards. Thereafter, MSDE staff will present a recommendation to both the PSTEB and SBOE to either: (1) adopt the regulation in the form it was proposed; or (2) revise the regulation and adopt it as final because the suggested revision is not a substantive change; or (3) withdraw the regulation and re-propose it because the suggested revision is a substantive change. At any time during this process, the AELR Committee may stop the promulgation process and hold a hearing. Thereafter, it may recommend to the Governor that the regulation not be adopted as a final regulation or the AELR Committee may release the regulation for final adoption. The PSTEB and SBOE would then vote to formally adopt the regulation.

**Action Required**

MSDE is requesting permission to adopt amendments to 13A.07.06.02 *Definitions* and 13A.07.06.08 *State Program Approval Requirements*.

**Attachments**

COMAR 13A.07.06.02 *Definitions*

COMAR 13A.07.06.08 *State Program Approval Requirements*

13A.07.06.02 Public Comment

# Title 13A

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### Subtitle 07 SCHOOL PERSONNEL

#### 13A.07.06 Programs for Professionally Certified Personnel

Authority: Education Article, §§2-205, 6-120, 6-121, 6-704, and 11-208, Annotated Code of Maryland

##### **.02 Definitions.**

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1)—(2) (text unchanged)

(3) “Alternative teacher preparation program” means a sequence of courses established by a county board, *an institution of higher education, or a nonprofit organization* and approved by the State Superintendent that leads to a participant receiving a [resident teacher certificate] *Resident Teacher License* issued by the Department and includes teaching assignments with supervision and mentoring by a qualified teacher.

(4)—(21) (text unchanged)

(22) “Partner school” means a local school system, nonpublic school, [or] nonpublic special education school, *or eligible prekindergarten provider* that has a written partnership agreement with an institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program to provide a teacher training practicum for participants enrolled in a teacher preparation program at the institution of higher education or alternative teacher preparation program.

(23)—(26) (text unchanged)

##### **.08 State Program Approval Requirements.**

A.—B. (text unchanged)

C. Standards and Competencies.

(1) A provider shall ensure that its teacher preparation programs provide the following for all candidates:

(a)—(c) (text unchanged)

(d) Instruction in teaching in high poverty, culturally diverse, and linguistically diverse schools under Regulation .15 of this chapter; [and]

(e) Instruction in research-based literacy instruction aligned to the science of reading for the grade level the individual will be teaching[.]; *and*

(f) *Training in the skills and techniques for teaching effectively in a virtual learning environment, including the use of online curricula.*

(2)—(5) (text unchanged)

D. Clinical Experiences.

(1)—(4) (text unchanged)

(5) Minimum Required Practicum.

(a) (text unchanged)

(b) [Exception.] *Exceptions.*

(i) *If an alternative teacher preparation program operating in Maryland on or before July 1, 2021, provides effective and diverse teachers in schools and local school systems, as approved by the State Superintendent, and has high rates of teacher vacancies, teacher turnover, and new teachers relative to other public schools in Maryland, a provider shall ensure that this program has a required practicum of a minimum of 100 days.*

(ii) *Candidates in an alternative teacher preparation program for early childhood education may satisfy criteria established by the Department that evaluate the knowledge and skills from prior learning relating to early childhood education in place of a practicum.*

(6)—(10) (text unchanged)

E. Exit Requirements.

(1) A provider shall establish exit requirements for programs that:

(a) (text unchanged)

(b) Demonstrate successful completion of the clinical experience outlined in [Regulation .08D of this chapter] *§D of this regulation; and*

[c] Beginning on July 1, 2025, obtain a qualifying score on a nationally recognized and nationally scored portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability, as established by the State Superintendent of Schools and as approved by the State Board of Education, in teaching areas only.]

(c) *Enable teacher candidates to, beginning July 1, 2025, complete:*

(i) *A nationally recognized and nationally scored portfolio-based assessment of teaching ability approved by the State Board of Education; or*

*(ii) A rigorous local school system teacher induction program that meets the requirements listed in §E(3) of this regulation.*

*(2) (text unchanged)*

*(3) A local school system induction program under §E(1)(c)(ii) of this regulation shall:*

*(a) Be developed by the local school system, either independently or collaboratively with other local school systems;*

*(b) Be approved by the Department;*

*(c) Last the lesser of 3 years or the amount of time a teacher holds a conditional license; and*

*(d) Include a locally developed portfolio component that is aligned with the Interstate Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium Standards.*

F. Credit Requirements.

*(1)—(2) (text unchanged)*

*(3) A locally developed portfolio established under §E(3) of this regulation may be used to meet a portion of the coursework requirements of the program.*

CAREY M. WRIGHT, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Schools



Kelly Meadows -MSDE- &lt;kelly.meadows@maryland.gov&gt;

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**Comment on COMAR 13A.07.06**

1 message

**Love, Tyler S** <tslove@umes.edu>

Thu, Oct 10, 2024 at 2:35 PM

To: "kelly.meadows@maryland.gov" &lt;kelly.meadows@maryland.gov&gt;

Cc: Jason Keys -MSDE- &lt;jason.keys@maryland.gov&gt;, "Poole-Sykes, Kimberly J" &lt;kjpoolesykes@umes.edu&gt;

Hi Kelly,

I had one comment on the proposed COMAR changes:

In the proposed changes, section .02 Definitions proposes to change how Alternative teacher preparation program is defined. The new language proposes "...a sequence of courses established by a county board, and IHE, or a nonprofit organization approved by the State Superintendent..."

Under COMAR Section 13A.07.06.07.A.1 (if I'm looking at the correct and current COMAR language) it states that alternative programs must be approved by the Commission (MHEC). If this is true, I would propose the definition be amended to include language about the approval of the Commission since 13A.07.06.07.A.1 states that is required if a provider seeks approval to offer a new program. This then questions if LEA or nonprofit developed course sequences would be required to get MHEC approval since they are not an IHE governed by MHEC? I apologize if I am misreading it, but it seems like they don't match up?

Tyler

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**Tyler S. Love, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of the Built Environment

Director of Graduate Studies in Career and Technology Education

Coordinator of Undergraduate Technology and Engineering Education

University of Maryland Eastern Shore at the Baltimore Museum of Industry

[1425 Key Highway, Suite 101](#)[Baltimore, MD 21230-5115](#)

(410) 727-4808 Ext 164

[tslove@umes.edu](mailto:tslove@umes.edu)•CTE Certificate, Licensure, and Master's programs – [wwwcp.umes.edu/tech/cte](http://wwwcp.umes.edu/tech/cte)

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**From:** Jason Keys -MSDE- <[jason.keys@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.keys@maryland.gov)>

**Date:** Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 11:35 AM

**To:**

**Subject:** COMAR 13A.07.06 Public Comment Period - Open through November 4th, 2024

Maryland EPPs,

Updates to COMAR 13A.07.06, Programs for Professionally Licensed Personnel, are online in the Maryland Register for your review. They can be accessed [here](#).

Comments may be sent to Kelly Meadows, Assistant State Superintendent, Maryland State Department of Education, [200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201](#), or call 410-767-0386, or email to [kelly.meadows@maryland.gov](mailto:kelly.meadows@maryland.gov). Comments will be accepted through November 4, 2024. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Licensure regulations are also expected to be open for public comment on the 18th of this month, and we will update you when those are available.

Thank you!

- Jay

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Maryland State Department of  
Education Equity and Excellence

**Jason Keys, Ed.D. (He/Him)**  
**Educator Preparation Manager**  
**Division of Educator Effectiveness**

O: (410) 767-0573

[jason.keys@maryland.gov](mailto:jason.keys@maryland.gov)

200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

[marylandpublicschools.org](http://marylandpublicschools.org)

