

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
5 laws relating thereto," further providing for evaluation of
6 applications for certification.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1216 of the act of March 10, 1949
10 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is
11 amended by adding a subsection to read:

12 Section 1216. Evaluation of Applications for
13 Certification.--(a) All applications for certification shall be
14 evaluated in their entirety. The Department of Education shall
15 notify the applicant if the application is incomplete and
16 include a listing of all materials or information needed to
17 complete the application. The applicant's pending application
18 shall remain open for one year following the date of such
19 notification. No letter of denial of certification shall be

1 issued unless all deficiencies in the application are stated in
2 the letter of denial.

3 (b) The grade point average used by the department in
4 evaluating the grade point average requirements for
5 certification pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.24 (relating to
6 academic performance) shall be as follows:

7 (1) For applicants whose initial preparation culminated in a
8 bachelor's degree or higher prior to October 7, 2000, the grade
9 point average in effect on the date of application for
10 certification.

11 (2) For applicants whose initial preparation culminates in a
12 bachelor's degree or higher on or after October 7, 2000, the
13 grade point average in effect on the date of graduation.

14 (c) (1) A teacher preparation program approved by the
15 Department of Education shall not require a student to obtain a
16 passing score on an assessment administered pursuant to 22 Pa.
17 Code § 49.18 (relating to assessment) as a condition of
18 graduation or include the student's score on the assessment as a
19 component of a student's grade in any course, provided that the
20 assessment of professional knowledge and practice may be
21 included as a component of a student's student teaching grade.

22 (2) For purposes of this paragraph:

23 (i) "Assessment" shall include the assessment of basic
24 skills, assessment of general knowledge, assessment of
25 professional knowledge and practice or assessment of subject
26 matter as such terms are defined in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating
27 to definitions).

28 (ii) "Assessment of professional knowledge and practice"
29 shall have the meaning set forth in 22 Pa. Code § 49.1 (relating
30 to definitions).

1 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.