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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OPPOSE SUNY CHARTER SCHOOL TRAINING PROPOSALS
Instructional leaders oppose creation of two-tiered system of teacher certification

[ALBANY] – The State’s leading organizations representing school building administrators oppose a proposal by the State University of New York (SUNY) Board of Trustees to allow charter schools authorized by SUNY to evade state requirements for the certification of school teachers.

Draft regulations approved by the SUNY Board of Trustees on July 6 would allow certain charter school “networks” to sidestep current teacher certification requirements and create their own training programs instead. Persons having as little as 30 hours of classroom instruction could teach students in publicly funded charter schools.

Current State Education Department (SED) regulations require teachers, administrators, and others to earn an SED certificate to work in the State’s public schools. Each individual has to demonstrate that she/he has met required degree, coursework, assessment, and experience requirements. Current teacher certification standards for the instruction of public students – including charter school students – were developed after a years-long process of stakeholder engagement. There are a number of pathways to become a New York State certified teacher.

According to the [proposed regulations](#), charter school operators seek the diminution of current requirements because of a “...difficulty hiring teachers certified in accordance with the requirements of the regulations of the commissioner of education.”

“These challenges are not unique to charter schools, and the demand for qualified teachers is high. This is as it should be, because the stakes are high too,” said NYSFSA president Mark Cannizzaro. “Teaching is a profession, and weakening these standards is not the answer.”

SAANYS executive director Kevin Casey added that, “Substituting unspecified instructional programs in place of the rigorous requirements for all other teachers of public students obviates the necessary work that a teacher should be required to do. It’s a bad idea and a step backward. It’s a simple as that.”

NYSSAC opposes these proposals, as an unwarranted step creating a two-tiered system of teacher preparation and certification in New York.

About the New York State School Administrators Consortium (NYSSAC) – NYSSAC is an advocacy partnership of the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) and the New York State Federation of School Administrators (NYSFSA).

NYSSAC is a diverse coalition of active and retired public school Principals, Assistant Principals, Supervisors and Administrators across New York – some 23,000 strong. Our union and non-union members live and work in urban, suburban and rural school districts across the state.