

# Certification: An Overview

Maryland State Board of Education

January 26, 2010



# The Professional Continuum

Phase 1

- PREPARATION

Phase 2

- CERTIFICATION

Phase 3

- CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Certification Defined

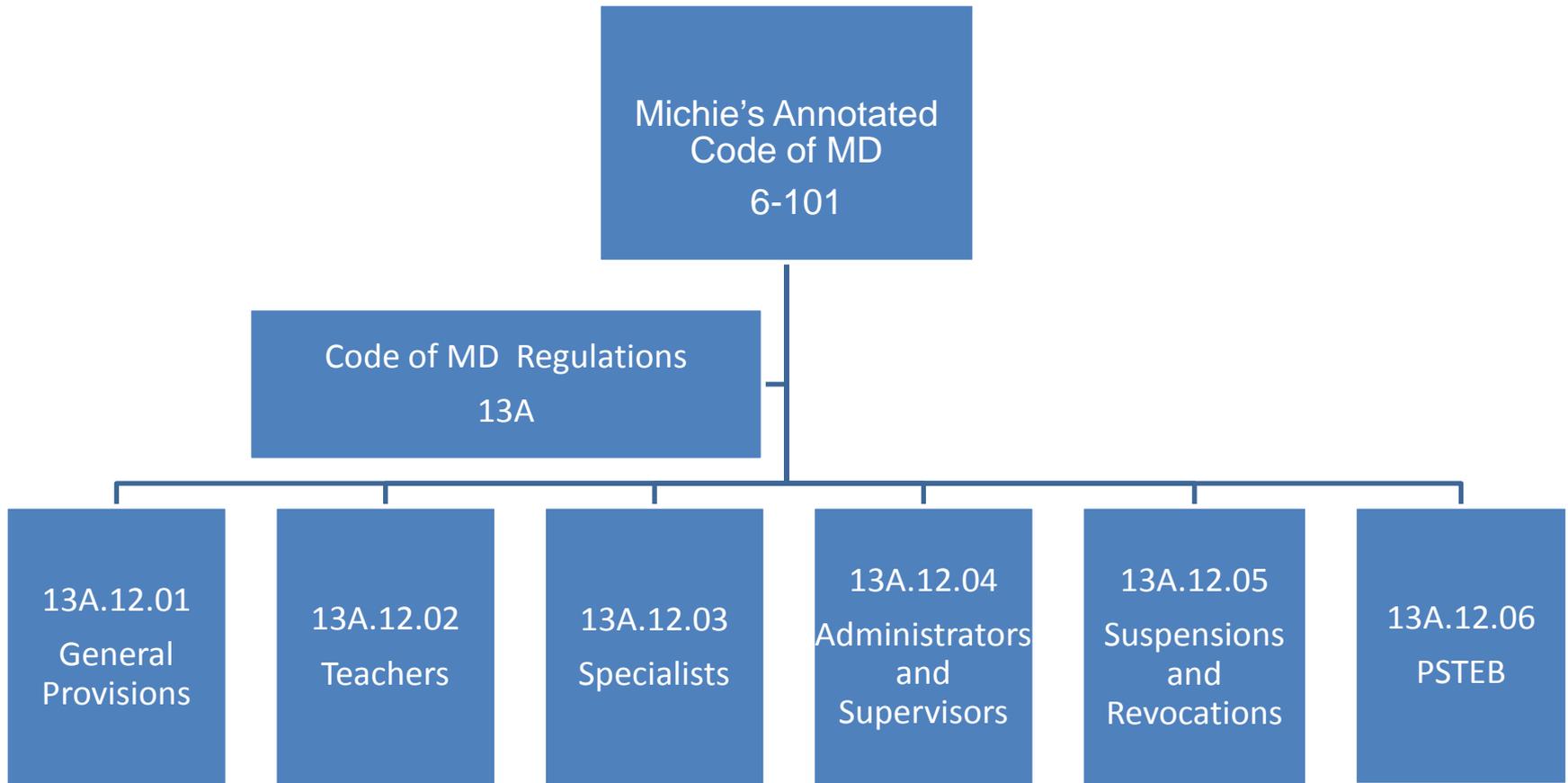
- A form of safeguarding the public in areas deemed important to citizens' well-being
- Official validation of entry-level knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for the profession

# Importance

13A.12.01

- Provides assurance that the professional public educational staff possess the minimum essential knowledge and skills needed to achieve the outcomes for public education declared by the MD State Board of Education

# Legal Authority



# Options for Initial Certification

13A.12.01

- Five routes to initial Maryland certification
  - Maryland Approved Programs
  - Out of State Approved Programs
  - Approved Professional Experience
  - Transcript Analysis
  - MD Resident Teacher Program

# MD Approved Programs

13A.12.01

- State Program Approval required by COMAR 13A.07.06
- State Program Approval and National Accreditation required by Maryland Statute 11-208 for institutions over 2000 full-time equivalent students (16 nationally accredited)

# MD Approved Programs

13A.12.01

- 23 institutions deliver initial certification programs framed by Maryland State Board of Education adopted *Redesign of Teacher Education in Maryland* (1995)

# Options for Initial Certification

13A.12.01

- Out of State Approved Programs
- Approved Professional Experience
- Transcript Analysis
- MD Resident Teacher Program

# MD Approved Alternative Preparation Programs

13A.12.01

- Established by COMAR 13A.12.01.07 and implemented through Maryland State Board of Education 2005 *Guidelines for Implementing Alternative Preparation Programs*
- Designed for career changers and recent college graduates

# MD Approved Alternative Preparation Programs

13A.12.01

- 17 programs in 12 local school systems, with two programs pending approval
- 1274 teachers currently in the first or second year of residency

# Teacher Education in MD

## Maryland-Approved Traditional Program

- College/University course-based
- Initial preparation of undergraduate/graduate students
- 100-day Professional Development School internship for all full-time candidates

Standard Professional Certificate

## Common Factors

- ✓ Elements of the Redesign
  - *Strong academic content*
  - *Extended clinical experience*
  - *Performance assessment*
  - *Linkage with PreK-12 priorities*
- ✓ Reading Requirements
- ✓ Standards Based Testing
- ✓ Basic Skills and Content Testing
- ✓ State Program Approval with cyclical peer review

## Maryland-Approved Alternative Preparation Program

- Local School System-based with partnership provider training
- Graduate-level only
- Specific entry criteria
- Training required for immediate classroom instruction and management
- 4-8 week internship and 1-2 year residency required

Resident Teacher Certificate

Standard Professional Certificate

# General Requirements

13A.12.01

- Bachelor's or higher degree
- Ancillary
  - Testing
  - Recognition of National Board Certification
- Special Provisions
  - College Level Examination Program credits
  - Foreign credential evaluations

# Certificate Types

13A.12.01

- Conditional Certificate (Degree and Non-degree) (2 years)
- Resident Teacher Certificate (2 years)
- Professional Eligibility Certificate (5 years)
- Standard Professional Certificate (5 years)
- Advanced Professional Certificate (5 years)

# Other Requirements

13A.12.01

- Renewal
  - Reading Requirements
- Reinstatement
- Adding a New Certificate Area

# MD Required Approved Reading Courses

## Early Childhood, Elementary and Special Education Teachers

**12 credits**

- Processes and Acquisition of Reading
- Instruction of Reading
- Materials for Teaching Reading
- Assessment for Reading Instruction

Scientifically-Based Reading Research (**SBRR**) addressing phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary & comprehension (2004)

Program Approval  
COMAR 13A.07.06.01

Certification Renewal  
COMAR 13A.12.01.11

## Secondary Content Areas, Special Education and PK-12 Teachers

**6 credits**

- Teaching Reading in the Content Areas I
- Teaching Reading in the Content Areas II

# Attracting Applicants

- Providing experienced professional option to qualified applicants educated in countries other than the US
- Providing experienced professional option to qualified administrators

# Attracting Applicants

- Providing professionals to reinstate expired MD certificates by presenting a valid out-of-state certificate and three years of satisfactory experience within the past seven years
- Expanding options for basic skills tests
- Expanding options for the design and delivery of alternative preparation programs

# Teachers

13A.12.02

- Specifies content and professional education coursework requirements (transcript analysis) for classroom teacher areas
- Areas include early childhood, elementary, secondary, specialty areas, ESOL, and Special Education

# Specialists

13A.12.03

- Specifies advanced degree and experience requirements for specialized instructional/support roles
- Includes Guidance Counselor, Library Media Specialist, Pupil Personnel Worker, Reading Specialist, Psychometrist, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, and Gifted and Talented Specialist

# Administrators/Supervisors

13A.12.04

- Specifies advanced degree and experience requirements for administrators and supervisors
- Includes Superintendents, Supervisors of Instruction, Assistant Principals, and Principals, Supervisors of Specific Areas, Resident Principal, and Resident Assistant Principal

# Suspensions and Revocations

13A.12.05

- Specifies causes
- Requires reporting disciplinary actions to the National Clearinghouse

# 13A.12.06 Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board

13A.12.06

- 25 member Board from representative constituencies
- Promulgates regulations, in conjunction with the State Board, for the certification of and requirements for the preparation of teachers and other education personnel