

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION

AND

PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

KEVIN SMITH *

VS. *

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION *

DECISION

Held: Request for
certification must be
denied.

Date: August 23, 1996

The petitioner in this case has fallen between two stools in his effort to obtain a Rhode Island social studies teaching certificate. One method of obtaining a teaching certificate would be to complete a prescribed academic teaching program offered by a college or university. The petitioner enrolled in such an academic program at Rhode Island College. This academic program required him, as part of the program, to complete a supervised period of student teaching, under academic supervision, along with the completion of a student teaching seminar. The record in this case demonstrates that while the petitioner completed the required course work at Rhode Island College he never completed the supervised period of student teaching or the seminar requiring by Rhode Island College as part of its requirements to complete its teacher preparation program. Since the petitioner did not complete the period of supervised student teaching or the seminar, Rhode Island College will not give him credit for completing its academic teaching program. Since the petitioner has not completed Rhode Island College's academic teaching program he cannot qualify for a teaching certificate based upon his completion of this program.

Petitioner does point out that there is another way in which he could obtain a Rhode Island teaching certificate. This is by way of "transcript analysis." Under the standards of "transcript analysis" the petitioner falls short of certification standard because he lacks three

courses in social studies. Under the "transcript analysis" standard however he would be entitled to credit for student teaching by virtue of his experience as a substitute teacher. This, of course, does not change the fact that petitioner, because he lacks three courses, does not qualify for a teaching certificate under the "transcript analysis" method of certification.

In the end the petitioner recognizes that he does not qualify for a teaching certificate either under the "academic program" or "transcript analysis" method. He suggests however that we cobble together, and water down, the requirements of the two standards into a "tertium quid" under which he could qualify for a teaching certificate. The problem with this argument is that the Board of Regents Regulations do not authorize us to create our own standard for teacher certification. We are not permitted to create special paths for such certifications. We therefore, must decline petitioner's suggestion that we do so.

Conclusion

Petitioner request for a social studies certificate must be denied and dismissed.

Forrest L. Avila

Forrest L. Avila
Hearing Officer

Approved:

Peter McWalters

Peter McWalters
Commissioner

Date: August 23, 1996