

January 12, 2006

Ms. Janine Vallese-Bower

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Janine Vallese-Bower for Certification  
Docket No. 0506-194

Dear Ms. Vallese-Bower:

At its last meeting the State Board of Examiners reviewed the appeal that you filed seeking a Teacher of the Handicapped certificate. After carefully considering your letter and attachment, the Board voted to deny your appeal because you do not meet the current requirements for the certificate.

You indicated in your appeal that the Morris County Office of Education advised you of the coursework required for the Teacher of the Handicapped endorsement, and in 2002 you began the coursework. You did not complete the coursework and apply for certification until the spring of 2004. Please be advised that the county office gave you the correct information regarding the Teacher of the Handicapped certificate in 2002. The requirements for certification changed on January 20, 2004, however. If you had applied for the Teacher of the Handicapped certificate before that date, you may have been eligible for it. Since your application was not received until after the new regulations went into effect, your application is governed by the current requirements. Indeed, the old Teacher of the Handicapped certificate is no longer issued.

As to the document from the Morris County Office that you submitted with your appeal, it does not state that you will be eligible for the Teacher of the Handicapped certificate; it merely states what additional documents are required in order to complete your application.

In sum, if you wish to receive the Teacher of Students with Disabilities certificate, you must complete the coursework that is currently required for the certificate.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary  
State Board of Examiners

RRH/AGL/vallesebowerjanine-appeal

Date of mailing:

By certified and regular mail

This matter may be appealed to the Commissioner of Education pursuant to *N.J.A.C.* 6A-3.