

February 22, 2007

Mr. Devon Savage

Re: In the Matter of the Application for Certification of Devon Savage
Docket No. 0607-164

Dear Mr. Savage:

As you are aware, you have appealed the determination that you are ineligible for teacher certification because you lack the requisite 2.75 grade point average (GPA). At its meeting of January 18, 2007, the State Board of Examiners reviewed the information that you provided in support of your appeal. After careful consideration, at its February 22, 2007, meeting the Board voted to deny your appeal because the documentation that you submitted failed to prove that your grades meet the requisite GPA.

The intent of the GPA requirement is to enhance teacher quality in New Jersey. The State Board of Education placed the GPA requirement in regulation; all candidates must therefore meet that standard. The State Board of Examiners is unable to issue teaching certificates to individuals who do not have the requisite grade point average. Nor does the Board have the authority to waive the requirement or substitute applicants' life experiences for the grade requirement, regardless of the applicants' circumstances.

As in all cases, the Board accepts the GPA that is on the transcript at the time the degree is conferred, whether the individual completed all courses at one college or multiple institutions. Your GPA was calculated by Notre Dame, the university from which you graduated. The Board does not recalculate GPAs; nor can it create a new GPA including courses you took at another institution. It is Notre Dame's decision as to how it incorporates grades from other institutions.

There are two options that you may wish to consider that may further your goal of becoming a teacher in New Jersey. The regulation governing the GPA requirement permits prospective teachers to meet the grade point requirement with either a

baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate end-of-program GPA. Accordingly, the first option permits you to present the GPA from a graduate degree program. You should be aware, however, that the GPA from any degree completed after September 1, 2004, has to be 2.75 in order for the Department to accept it in lieu of your undergraduate GPA.

The second option would be to ask Notre Dame to recalculate your GPA incorporating the grades from all institutions that you attended. If Notre Dame will do so, you may submit a recalculated GPA with a new application for certification.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Higgins, Acting Secretary
State Board of Examiners

RRH/MZ/savage-GPA appeal

By certified and regular mail

Date of mailing: FEBRUARY 23, 2007

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