



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
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**Exhibit # VII.C.**

TO: Members of the State Board of Education  
FROM: Alternative Pathways Stakeholders Group\*  
DATE: September 19, 2012  
SUBJECT: Receipt of the Alternative Pathways Stakeholders Group Report

**BACKGROUND:** Public Law Chapter 635, LD 1858 charges the State Board with the following responsibilities:

**Sec. B-2. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§6**, as enacted by PL 1989, c. 889, §8, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

**6. Alternative pathways to certification.** The state board shall develop and adopt rules providing a method for a person who has not completed an approved educator preparation program as defined under section 13008 to obtain provisional educator certification through an alternative pathway that:

- A. Is designed for candidates who can demonstrate subject matter competency that is directly related to the certificate endorsement being sought and obtained through prior academic achievement or work experience;
  - B. May feature an accelerated program of preparation;
  - C. Uses mentorship programs that partner teacher candidates with mentor teachers;
- and
- D. Includes accountability provisions to ensure that teacher candidates demonstrate the knowledge and skills established pursuant to section 13012, subsection 2-B prior to issuance of a provisional teacher certificate.

**Sec. B-6. Alternative certification working group.** The State Board of Education shall establish a working group to develop one or more alternative certification pathways that meet the standards set forth in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 20-A, section 13011, subsection 6. Members of the State Board of Education shall participate in the working group, and the State Board of Education shall invite the participation of representatives of the Maine Education Association, the Maine School Superintendents Association, the Maine Principals' Association, the Maine School Boards Association, Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities and Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education, representatives of approved educator preparation programs, parents and the business community and other interested parties. The working group shall submit a report describing one or more alternative certification

pathways to the State Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education. The State Board of Education shall submit the report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs no later than November 1, 2012. The report must include pathway descriptions, the working group's recommendations and any draft legislation or rules needed to implement the recommendations.

The Certification and Higher Education Committee established the Alternative Pathways Stakeholders Group in accordance with LD 1858. The attached report fulfills the requirements as set forth. The group recognizes the need to address the concerns of the other alternative pathways candidates and will be continuing its work through the next year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the State Board of Education receive, for consideration, the report of the Alternative Pathways Stakeholders Group and consider endorsement of the report at the October 30, 2012 meeting.

\*Prepared by Nancy Perkins, Chair, Alternative Pathways Stakeholders Group