



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Sharon Katt, Administrator, Adult Program Services

SUBJECT: Rule 21 Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools

Proposed Board Action:

Worksession Item Only. Proposed revisions to Rule 21 will be discussed in preparation for Board approval at a subsequent meeting.

Background Information:

Changes to Rule 21 will create a District Career Education and a Post-Secondary Career Education certificate. The District Career Education certificate allows for the career education teacher to teach high school courses only. The Post-Secondary Career education certificate is given to a dual credit teacher with an endorsement in a career education field. Additional Rule 21 changes create a defined renewal procedure for Speech Language Technicians as they progress toward their gaining a Speech Language Pathology degree, add language to address the requirements of passing a content test to gain an endorsement for an initial Nebraska certificate or for adding an additional endorsement to a current Nebraska certificate, update the topics covered to gain the Special Services certificate with a coaching endorsement and add a masters’ degree in Special Education as a qualifying program to move an experienced applicant from the Standard to the Professional Certificate.

Estimated Cost:

Costs associated with public notice and printing - approximately \$600.00. Some costs will be incurred to update the Teacher Certification system to manage the applicant scores on the new requirements related to content testing.

Supporting Documentation Included:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULE 21 – November 2013

For Additional Information on this item:

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PROPOSED CHANGES TO RULE 21 – November 2013

1) **Change the current Career Education Certificate to become a District Career Education Certificate and a Post-Secondary Career Education certificate.** The change accommodates the differences in a high school only career education class and a class offered in career education for both high school and college credit (dual credit). We are currently in our fifth year with the Career Education and Dual Credit certificates and found that a person who taught a dual credit class for college credit with a career education endorsement did not qualify for a dual credit certificate because they do not have a master's degree. This change clears up the problem by identifying a specific certificate for individuals teaching in a career education area who qualify to teach dual credit courses in a career education area. No changes to the current Dual Credit certificate are being proposed.

2) Support Rule 24 changes in August 2013 to **clarify the requirements for Speech Language Technicians to renew their Special Services Provisional Certificate.** The intent is that all SLT's will move toward completing their Speech Language Pathologist Masters' degree in a timely fashion. Current Rule 21 allows for SLT's to renew with six hours. The new requirements for renewal will require that individuals holding the SLT must show admission into a Speech Language Pathologist MA program to gain their first renewal. Subsequent renewals require 6 credit hours per year in coursework that is directly related to their SLP masters' program.

3) Adopt the **content test requirement** for applicants completing their educational program for their initial certificate or adding a new endorsement to a current Nebraska certificate after Sept. 1, 2015. Rule 21 will support Rule 24 test scores and procedures outlined to implement this program.

Proposed Implementation Plan Procedures

Although the following items are not specifically included in the proposed Rule revision, they are provided as an update regarding implementation expectations that have been discussed.

* All applicants, who hold a valid current Nebraska or out of state certificate with endorsements given prior to Sept. 1, 2015, do not have to take the content test to gain or maintain a Nebraska certificate.

*All candidates must meet Nebraska passing scores. Praxis 2 tests taken by a candidate will be accepted if they have met the NE passing score. Candidates score seen as passing in another state, but is below the Nebraska passing standard will be deemed to not meet the requirement of this rule.

*Only Praxis 2 tests designated in Rule 24 will be accepted.

*Applicants can choose to take the test for one endorsement at a time. Then later they can take other content tests and add other endorsements. The applicant must complete the educational program that corresponds with the added endorsement.

*Teaching experience will not be judged to meet this testing requirement. No Provisional certificate or Conditional permit will be issued to give the person up to a year to pass the test. Applicants will be required to pass the test before it will be placed on a Nebraska certificate.

*Educators wanting to add a provisional endorsement or special education provisional endorsement will be required to pass the content test at the end of the third year. Provisional endorsements are currently issued for three years. Provisional SPED endorsements can be issued for more than three years so the person will need to pass the test before they can renew their provisional SPED endorsement.

*A person holding a Nebraska certificate expired more than five years will be required to complete fifteen credit hours and the appropriate content test.

4) **Language change to the Special Services Coaching Certificate** to reflect topics currently covered in the area. New topics include first aid and coaching principles but also diversity in athletics, gender equity, disability grouping and sexual harassment and orientation.

5) A Professional Teaching Certificate is awarded after an educator receives a Masters' degree in Curriculum & instruction, Educational Technology or in their content area. It is proposed that a **Masters' degree in Special Education** be added to the list.