

TO: NEBRASKA SUPERINTENDENTS, PERSONNEL DIRECTORS AND NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL LEADERS

NEW RULE 21(CERTIFICATES TO TEACH AND ADMINISTER IN NEBRASKA SCHOOLS)
IMPLEMENTATION DATE February 1, 2012.

FROM: DR. KEVIN PETERS, NEBRASKA DIRECTOR FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION

MAJOR CHANGES FOR K-12 SCHOOLS

- * All **certificate expiration dates** will be August 31st replacing birth dates. Certificate expiration dates on active certificates will be changed in the Teacher Certification (TC) system as follows: those expiring Jan. 1st to August 30 will change to August 31st of the same year; and those with an expiration date of September 1st to December 31st will move back to August 31st of that same year. New certificates will not be mailed. Please advise your staff that they can view their certificate and new expiration date at www.education.ne.gov/TCERT. Under searches select Current Certificates & HR Training Lookup.
- * **Local substitute certificate** will increase from 40 days to 45 days. This will apply to local substitutes used during the 2011-12 school year.
- * **Validity of temporary certificate** issued for a deficiency in human relations training will be reduced from two years to six months (180 days) from the date of the certificate issuance. Candidates will have six months to complete a HRT class or write the narrative. A person who fails to complete this requirement is not eligible for any other Nebraska certificate until HRT is met. Applicants who received a temporary certificate issued before February 1, 2012 will still have two years to complete the requirement.
- * Use of the **conditional permit** will be restricted to fingerprint clearance and at the discretion of NDE. Districts are asked to email or call the Teacher Certification Office to take action on an individual who needs immediate placement. The Superintendent's conditional letter is no longer required.
- * We will now accept **out of state basic skills tests in lieu of PPST** scores if they include math, reading and writing components with passing scores clearly designated. Tests measuring content (Praxis 2) or basic skills tests that do not contain all three designated subjects will not be accepted.
- * **School nurses** will renew their certificate based on verifying that they currently hold a valid Nebraska nursing license. Six college hours will no longer be required.
- * **Inactive non-teaching coaches**, who have not coached in the past five years, will now need to complete the two required NSAA classes in Preventive Injuries and Coaching Principles again. Six hours of college credit will no longer be required.
- * A person who has not had **two years of teaching experience** in their educational career but instead has two or more years verified experience as an administrator, school psychologist or counselor, can gain a Nebraska Administrative Certificate by completing an educational administrative preparation program.
- * **Out of state candidates** who ask about "**reciprocity**" should be told by administrators that they must meet Nebraska standards for certification. We do not accept their out of state certificate without thorough review.
- * **Electronic certificates** – All Nebraska applicants should use our website to apply at www.education.ne.gov/TCERT. Applicants who need a paper application will be able to print one from the website. We expect that 95% of the applications will be electronic. We will not mail certificates to applicants except in rare cases. We ask that districts accept the applicant's printed electronic copy.
- * **Renewal lists** for the 2012-13 school year will again be electronically distributed on March 1 and updated and sent on May 1st.

Please give me a call at 402-471-0738 if I can help answer staffing and certification questions.