



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

TO: Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: Sharon Katt, Administrator, Adult Program Services
Kevin Peters, Director, Teacher Certification

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Approve a Hearing Draft of Rule 21 (92 NAC 21) *Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*, and authorize the Commissioner the authority to set a date, time, and place for the hearing, and to appoint a hearing official to conduct the hearing on behalf of the State Board.

RATIONALE:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The most current version of Rule 21 became effective on December 11, 2011. Changes are being proposed to update the Rule in several areas. These changes have been discussed with appropriate constituency groups, including the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education.

Rule 21 addresses the certification of individuals to teach, administer or provide special services in Nebraska school systems. Substantive changes being proposed include:

- Incorporating the use of 'permit' to more clearly distinguish between regular certificates (initial, standard, and professional) and permits (which generally indicate that the individual has not completed a full educator preparation program).
- Revision of the Provisional Commitment Certificate to become the Alternative Program Permit. The Alternative Program Permit includes the current option under the provisional commitment certificate, but also provides a new option to allow schools to employ individuals who have completed an alternative program in another state while they are completing Nebraska certification requirements.
- The Career Education Certificate will become the Career Education Permit and will be used for individuals teaching in career education areas at the secondary level of instruction.
- The Dual Credit Certificate will become the Postsecondary Permit and will be issued to postsecondary individuals who do not hold a regular teaching certificate to teach courses that result in both high school and college credit. The current Dual Credit Certificate requires a Master's Degree and 6 graduate hours in the content area being taught. The proposal moves the responsibility for determining appropriate

credentials from NDE to the postsecondary institution in compliance with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) requirements for appropriately prepared faculty.

- Clarifies Special Services Certificate and Special Services Permit options.
- Reduces the time allowed for individuals to complete requirements to move from certain permits to a regular certificate. This change generally reduces the length of permit validity from three to two years.
- Fingerprint fees will decrease from \$50.00 to \$35.00 to reflect reduced Nebraska State Patrol charges and staff efficiencies.

A more detailed summary of changes/rationale will be provided as support material.

Estimated Cost – \$650.00 for public notice and printing.