



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Sharon Katt, Administrator Adult Program Services

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM: Adopt a hearing draft of Rule 24 24 (92 NAC 24) *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements* and grant 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 Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE), with the input of ad hoc committees, has completed revision work on the following endorsements, which, if approved, will become effective August 1, 2015 along with their associated Guidelines:

1. Special Education Supervisor
2. Coaching
3. Secondary Transition Specialist
4. Special Education Behavior Intervention Specialist
5. Special Education Deaf or Hard of Hearing
6. Special Education Early Intervention Specialist
7. Special Education Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist
8. Special Education Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist
9. Special Education Visual Impairment
10. Audiologist
11. School Nurse

In addition, the following endorsements are recommended for elimination from the current Rule 24:

1. Special Education Deaf or Hard of Hearing (field endorsement)
2. Special Education Learning Disabilities (replaced by Special Education Inclusion and Collaboration Specialist)
3. Special Education Severe/Multiple Disabilities (replaced by Special Education Functional Academic Skills and Independent Living Specialist)

Support materials attached include a summary of the proposed endorsement changes and a draft of the proposed Rule 24. In addition to the endorsement changes listed above, changes to the Rule include:

- Incorporation of the content testing requirement which becomes effective September 1, 2015.

- Addition of the term ‘permit’ where the term ‘certificate’ appears in anticipation of upcoming Rule 21 changes.
- Changes to the Provisional Special Education endorsement to support completion of the endorsement on a timely basis.
- Other non-substantive changes to enhance consistency and reflect current practice throughout the Rule.

Selected pages of the accompanying “Guidelines Recommended for use with Rule 24” are also included in the support materials. The selected pages related to the endorsements for which substantive changes are being proposed. Guidelines are not enforceable except as guidelines; the approval and/or continuation of an endorsement program is based solely on the criteria specified in Rule 24. The Guidelines do not go to public hearing; however, they will be formally approved by the Board after the Rule 24 hearing. The Guidelines provide direction to the educator programs as they implement/revise their programs. Both the Rule and the Guidelines are used as a basis for Board Approval and the State Program Review processes. A copy of each institution’s course requirements for each endorsement program they offer is kept on file in the NDE Educator Preparation office.

Estimated Cost - \$650.00 for public notice and printing costs.