



PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

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

FROM: Gary M. Sherman and Steve Milliken

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:

Approve proposed revisions to NDE Rule 51 (92 NAC 51), "Regulations and Standards for Special Education Programs."

RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Stakeholders including representatives from education and the deaf community met numerous times to make recommendations for revisions to Rule 51 regarding requirements for educational sign language interpreters for the deaf or hard of hearing. Additionally, recent changes made in NDE Rule 24 regarding Special Education endorsement titles have been incorporated into the Rule. The summary of the Hearing on these proposed changes to 92 NAC 51, held on 11/18/15, is attached.

Background: The State Board was approached by the NE Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and other members of the deaf community concerning LR 517, specifically the recommendation to raise standards for education interpreters in K-12 classroom settings. As a result of the presentation/discussion, the State Board asked the NDE Office of Special Education to explore raising the standards for educational interpreters.

ESTIMATED COST:

Normal costs for carrying out duties associated with rule development such as stakeholder meetings, public notice and printing. Additionally, more training will be required which will be funded by NDE via the appropriation for NDE Program 401 (D/HH). The proposed changes do not require additional costs for school districts, however, districts may elect to provide salary incentives and/or additional training.