



NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Scott Summers, Legal Counsel III – Commissioner’s Appointed Staff Person to Conduct a Rule Hearing on revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25, *Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act* 

DATE: May 25, 2016

RE: Summary of rulemaking hearing on proposed revisions to 92 NAC 25

On April 18, 2016 the Commissioner approved a hearing draft and set a hearing date and location as well as designated a staff person to conduct a hearing on the adoption of proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25. By a memorandum dated April 20, 2016, the Commissioner appointed me to conduct a hearing on this Rule on May 25, 2016, commencing at 10:00 a.m. After the proper legal notice was published, this hearing was held at the Nebraska State Office Building, Nebraska Department of Education, Conference Room A, 301 Centennial Mall South, Sixth Floor, Lincoln, Nebraska. Pursuant to State Board of Education Policy B9, what follows is a written summary of the hearing testimony.

An audio recording of the hearing is available if any members of the Board wish to hear the tape.

SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 92 NAC 25 Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act

Scott Summers, staff attorney and the hearing official, called this hearing to order, read into the record the name of the newspaper in which a legal notice of the hearing was published and the date the notice appeared, outlined the procedures for the hearing and introduced **Sharon Katt, Senior Administrator, Adult Program Services, Nebraska Department of Education**. Ms. Katt testified in support of the proposed revisions and introduced **Karen Buller, Program Associate, Excellence in Teaching Act, Adult Program Services, Nebraska Department of Education**.

Ms. Buller introduced and explained the proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25. Ms. Buller testified that Rule 25 is being revised to address statutory changes created by the passage of LB 519 (2015), LB 525 (2015) and LB 1066 (2016) which impact the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program (AETP) and the Enhancing Excellence in Teacher Program (EETP) governed by the Excellence in Teaching Act, specifically Sections 79-8,132 through 79-8,140 of the *Nebraska Revised Statutes*. Additional modifications have been made to clarify certain provisions of Rule 25. Ms. Buller’s written testimony is attached to this memo. It was also clarified that a typographical error in the hearing draft will be corrected prior to submission to the State Board for final adoption (“deermind” corrected to “determined” in section 002.02F).

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Jay Sears, Director, Nebraska State Education Association, testified in support of the proposed revisions to Rule 25. A copy of Mr. Sears' testimony is attached.

No other oral or written testimony was received.



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May 25, 2016

My name is Sharon Katt and I serve the Nebraska Department of Education as Senior Administrator responsible for the Adult Program Services team with specific responsibility for Teacher Education. Karen Buller will be providing testimony regarding changes to Rule 25. These changes and the subsequent testimony have my support.

My name is Karen Buller and I serve the Nebraska Department of Education as Program Associate responsible for the Excellence in Teaching Act.

The hearing today is related to 92 NAC 25 *Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act*. This rule establishes the procedures to carry out the programs of the Excellence in Teaching Act, which includes the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program (AETP), a forgivable loan program offered to individuals who are enrolled in a teacher education program seeking their Initial certification, and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program (EETP), a forgivable loan program available to Nebraska teachers who are enrolled in an eligible graduate program.

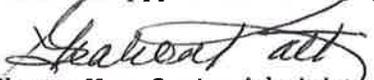
The revisions to Rule 25 are proposed pursuant to Sections 79-8, 132 through 79-8, 140 of the *Nebraska Revised Statutes* which incorporate changes created by LB519, LB525, and LB1066.

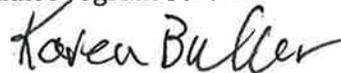
Substantive changes include:

- The criterion for eligibility has been expanded to include a graduate course of study leading to an additional endorsement in a shortage area along with the current degree program criteria.
- Loan forgiveness timeline for recipients receiving EETP funds for the first time on or after July 1, 2016.

Other minor changes have been made to clarify existing language related to current practice and to enhance consistency throughout the Rule.

I will be happy to answer any questions.


Sharon Katt, Senior Administrator
Adult Program Services


Karen Buller, Program Associate
Excellence in Teaching Act



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**NANCY FULTON
PRESIDENT**



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

A member-directed union representing 28,000 public school teachers, faculty and education support professionals across Nebraska.

May 25, 2016

Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph. D.

Commissioner of Education

Nebraska Department of Education

301 Centennial Mall South

PO Box 94987

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Commissioner Blomstedt:

On behalf of the 28,000 member Educators of the Nebraska State Education Association, I am offering our support of the proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 25, Regulations Governing the Excellence in Teaching Act. NSEA supported the revisions that were passed by the Nebraska Unicameral as reflected in LB 519, LB 525, and LB 1066.

Thank you to your staff for all of their work during this past legislative session and for their support of the Excellence in Teaching Act which governs the Attracting Excellence to Teaching Program and the Enhancing Excellence in Teaching Program.

Sincerely

Jay Sears, Director

Nebraska State Education Association

NEBRASKA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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