



**Matthew L. Blomstedt, Ph.D., Commissioner**  
**Scott Swisher, Ed.D., Deputy Commissioner**

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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 22, *Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program* 

DATE: September 9, 2015

RE: Summary of rulemaking hearing on proposed revisions to 92 NAC 22

*On August 7, 2015, the State Board approved a hearing draft and authorized the Commissioner to set a hearing date and location to conduct a hearing on the adoption of proposed revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 22. By a memorandum dated August 7, 2015, the Commissioner appointed me to conduct a hearing on this Rule on September 9, 2015, 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, State Board Meeting Room, 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 it.*

#### **SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO 92 NAC 22 Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program**

**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 that Rule 22 became effective January 13, 2002 but funds were not appropriated to implement the financial aspects until the 2015 legislative session. The purpose of the program is to build a group of recognized teachers of high achievement in the teaching profession. This proposed hearing draft updates language regarding assessment procedures to qualify as a credentialing organization and clarifies that applicants must pay the entire initial registration and application fees upfront to be eligible for a partial registration fee award prior to beginning the process. Please see Ms. Katt’s written testimony attached.

**Jay Sears, Nebraska State Education Association (NSEA), Program Director**, testified in support of the proposed Rule. Mr. Sears’ testimony is attached.

No other oral or written testimony was received.



# NEBRASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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September 4, 2015

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 and oversight for Teacher Certification.

The current Rule 22 became effective January 13, 2002; however, no funds were appropriated to implement the financial aspects of the Rule until 2015 when the legislature appropriated funds (\$470,000) for the program. The purpose of the program is to build a group of recognized teachers of high achievement in the teaching profession.

The purpose of this Hearing Draft is to:

1. Update language regarding required assessment procedures to qualify as a credentialing organization; and
2. Clarify that applicants must pay the entire initial registration and application fees (\$1,975.00) upfront to be eligible for a partial registration fee award (1/2 of the total \$1,975.00) prior to beginning the process. Participants will be eligible to receive a remaining fee award upon completion of the program.

Master teacher status is granted to any applicant who submits an application to the Department for recognition based on successful completion of the assessment process from an approved credentialing organization. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is generally recognized as the approved credentialing organization which meets the criteria specified in Rule 22. Individuals completing the process will be issued a Professional Teaching Certificate by NDE and will be eligible for an annual \$5,000 salary bonus.

I will be happy to answer any questions.

Sharon Katt  
Senior Administrator  
Adult Program Services



September 9, 2015

Sharon Katt, Senior Administrator  
Adult Program Services  
Nebraska Department of Education  
Nebraska State Office Building  
301 Centennial Mall South  
Lincoln, NE 68509

**Reference: Rule 22**

Dear Ms. Katt:

The Nebraska State Education Association is in support of the proposed changes to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 22, *Regulations Governing the Master Teacher Program*.

The changes as proposed in the Hearing Draft dated August 7, 2015 will facilitate the implementation of the provisions the Legislature intended in Sections 79-8,124 to 79-8,131 R.R.S.

The NSEA appreciates the communication the Nebraska Department of Education staff, specifically, Sharon Katt's communication, has provided as Rule 22 is being revised to reflect what the credentialing organizations now require to receive National Board Certification.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input and testimony on this revision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jay Sears'.

Jay Sears, Program Director  
Nebraska State Education Association