

ESSA Implementation. Listening Tours will be conducted in March to gain input for implementation of the Every Child Succeeds Act (ESSA). <https://www.education.ne.gov/ESSA/index.html>

NDE 20-004. REMINDER this is due May 15, 2017.

Higher Education Reauthorization/Regulations. Regarding the new Higher Education Opportunities Act of 2008 regulations passed last October, the House has suspended the regulations and a resolution has been introduced in the Senate that will likely pass. This means that it will likely be business as usual with the IPRC reporting for April.

Although it would be GREAT news if the new regulations are suspended, it does not mean that our discussions about assessment/accountability are also suspended. It means that 'we' have the ability to move forward to create educator preparation accountability expectations that make sense for Nebraska and Nebraska programs.

Regarding reauthorization of the HEOA - Committee leaders on both sides of the aisle expressed their shared commitment to reauthorizing the HEOA (i.e. new legislation). Given everything going on in Congress, it is not clear how that 'commitment' will play out!

Pre-Approval Process for new endorsements. Included in your institution's packet is the latest version of expectations for the pre-approval process. This is a work in progress and will continue to be updated as we learn more from our first year of experience.

Delivery Methods Survey. You will be receiving a request to complete a chart indicating the delivery method for endorsements (online/on-the-ground/blended-hybrid). This is to some extent in preparation for the potential new reporting for HEA Regulations (if they survive), but more importantly will serve as an internal NDE resource to direct candidates to NE programs.

Content Area Standards. The Content Area Standards Guide is one of the resources found at: <https://www.education.ne.gov/AcademicStandards/index.html>. This site will also provide you with access to specific PK-12 standards information, CCR standards, etc.

Protecting the Profession-Professional Ethics in the Classroom. A copy is included in your packet. This document was shared in a recent newsletter from ETS. We have also provided you with a copy of *Rule 27 Regulations and Standards for Professional Practices Criteria*.

Paying Student Teachers? I received a contact from a school asking if student teachers can be paid. NDE Legal Counsel reinforced that there is no regulation that prohibits paying student teachers. For purposes of the contact recently received, the candidate would be paid as a para while also completing student teaching (with a commitment to then teach for the district upon program completion). My response to the individual: 1.) This comes down to the institution's decision; however, previous conversation on this point has identified a variety of concerns. 2.) The school would need to work with their legal counsel – there are protections afforded a student teacher that

would change when the individual becomes an employee. 3.) There could be questions as to the integrity of the experience if the person is expected to perform as a para.

MELS (Multi-State Educator Look-up). Work continues. Surrounding states are also gearing up!

ETS Study/Support Materials. We continue to add to the list of (free) candidate assistance resources from ETS: <https://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/TopPages/SkillsTesting.html>

ACT. We are still waiting for the ETS study regarding the comparability of ACT with the CORE. The thought is that once we have that research we can consider implications for Rule 23.

CAEP. The 2017 Call for Volunteers is open until April 1, 2017.
http://caepnet.org/c4s?utm_source=CAEP+Open+Email+Subscriptions&utm_campaign=d64428d534-C4S_2017_03_02&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_77a041118e-d64428d534-51329899.

The State Dues are going from \$7,500 last year to \$12,500 this year. The option to keep the dues closer to the \$7,500 level is to become a 'concurrent partnership' as opposed to a 'joint partnership'. The difference is that we would no longer provide CAEP-trained state members to work collaboratively with the national CAEP team throughout the CAEP process (pre-visit and site visit). A State team would likely be on campus at the same time, but work independently. State team members would not have access to the Self-Study, would not contribute to the off-site review nor writing of the on-site report. There is adequate budget to pay the \$12,500 this year and it seems to me that, at this time, the ideal is to maintain our ability to include Nebraska individuals as a part of the CAEP team, but it does mean that we need individuals who are nationally trained to 'accept the call' when we reach out for State Team Members for upcoming CAEP visits to Nebraska institutions.

That will include:

- UNK: November 12-14, 2017
- York College: December 3-5, 2017
- UNL Spring, 2018
- Hastings College: April 8-10, 2018
- Creighton University: April 15-17

Diversifying the Teacher Pipeline. Thank you for your responses to the request for diversity initiatives at your institution. The State Team participating in this CCSSO initiative includes Commissioner Blomstedt, Deputy Frison, Jay Sears, Robert Aranda (OPS), and Sharon Katt. The information will help this group understand that educator preparation has a commitment to diversity, as well as potentially informing the State Team's goals. If you have not responded:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1z8gRS9JKOoOo6hCB-1FbKsl0WLC2dkkoEr-7wmDRw9w/edit>

Nebraska Early Childhood Workforce Commission. A collaborative group of 39 public and private sector leaders has been convened by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute to develop a comprehensive plan of action for expanding and strengthening the state's early childhood workforce. Dr. Marjorie Kostelnik serves as a co-chair with Dr. Sam Meisels. As you know, we have had conversations about issues related to addressing the need for certified early childhood teachers – this Commission, among other things, will continue to consider this issue. Several institutions have representation to this Commission.

Does a School Psychologist ‘teach’? As schools look for creative options to meet their needs, we get interesting questions. Most recently, the question was if an individual with a School Psychologist endorsement (which is on a teaching certificate) would clear an assignment to teach a Psychology class? Thoughts?

Upcoming Events:

The **2017 AQuESTT Conference: Building Capacity for Improvement is scheduled for April 10-11** at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney. Call for proposals is open until March 10th.

State Legislation.

Master Teacher: the Governor’s Budget included authorization to use carry-forward funds and we will be providing stipends at a reduced rate of approximately \$1,750 (as opposed to \$5,000) for 2016-17. We will also be able to meet reimbursement for individuals moving through the process if the application process was completed by 1/30/17. Going forward, we are watching LB214 (Morfeld) which would use Education Innovation Funds (Lottery) to continue the program at about 25% of the previous authorization. State Board: Neutral. Hearing 1/31 – Held in Committee

LB299 (Ebke)--Creates the Occupational Board Reform Act which would have significant impact on NDE’s authority for Rule 21, among others. State Board: Oppose. Hearing 2/24. Held in Committee.

LB645 and AM 106 (Pansing-Brooks)—Add language regarding dyslexia for purposes of SPED legislation. State Board: Support. Hearing 2/7; Moved to General File. HEADS UP SPECULATION – may see subsequent legislation increase school system responsibilities, and require pre and inservice educator development for working with students with dyslexia.

LB109 (Blood)—Provides for a temporary teacher certificate or permit for military spouses. Hearing 1/23; Held in Committee. State Board: Neutral

LB568 and Amendment 150 (Erdman)--Regarding certification option for substitute teachers. Amendment clarifies that it is for substitute teachers as opposed to the initial Bill which implied it could be any teacher. State Board: Oppose. Hearing 3/14.

LB 650 (Lineman--Change provisions for teaching certificates (adds a variety of options to obtain a certificate). State Board: Neutral. Hearing 3/14.