

1/30/2015

## NDE UPDATES

**Rule 21** Included in your packet is a summary Kevin has prepared regarding changes that will be discussed with the State Board at their February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. We are waiting for Brian Halstead's review of the draft – so please consider this document a DISCUSSION DRAFT. The intent is that these will be discussed in-depth at the March NACTE/NCTE meeting, as well as shared with other stakeholder groups. We will likely ask the Board to authorize a public hearing for April so that we can get Board approval to move forward to the Attorney General and Governor in May. Also included in your packet is a summary of the discussion leading to the creation of the proposed Alternative Program Permit.

**Early Childhood Permit** We have been contacted by the Buffett Early Childhood Institute and other constituents about their desire to create new permit which would be restricted to programs funded by the Early Childhood Endowment Cash Fund. The advocates were initially preparing to submit this request to the Legislature to create statutory language; however, they have agreed to work through the Rule process instead. There will be presentation during Public Comment at the March NCTE meeting and some limited time for discussion. Attached is the discussion draft as it currently stands—this is provided as a 'heads-up' and should NOT be widely distributed. There will likely be changes/developments before March.

**Early Childhood Endorsements Crosswalk** Developed with input of NDE EC staff, this may be of help to you as you advise candidates.

**NCTE Membership Roster** Typically we contact institutions and other constituents for member recommendations in early Spring. A review of this timeline indicates that we will likely wait until this Summer. One of the main reasons that with the 'early' effort we were finding the need to make adjustments to the Board-approved list before the membership year even started. This likely isn't a big deal to you – just to let you know the request to your institution for the names of the representative and alternate will likely be arriving late Spring.

Several **Legislative Bills** of interest have been introduced. We will know a lot more about these Bills (and their chances) in March. Of particular interest to educator preparation: 507, 508, and 527. Other bills with more indirect implications: 185, 239, and 274. <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/>

**Proposed Title II HEA Regulations** Responses need to be at USDE no later than February 2. THANKS to those who have shared their institution's response and/or provided a letter of support for NDE's submission.

**NCLB Waiver Application** Included in your packet is a December email regarding "Good Question". This is a reminder of the implications/expectations created as a result of an increased understanding of the importance of teacher preparation to student achievement.

**Literacy Training** You may recall that last summer we encouraged teacher education faculty to participate in this training. We were pleased with the higher education response. Faculty evaluations

indicated the experience was VERY POSITIVE. This ISN'T directed at ELA faculty, but rather to faculty in other content areas, secondary and elementary, to build their skills for incorporating literacy into their curriculum.

**AQuESTT** The most current graphic is provided. A color version of this is available on the NDE website. It appears the objective is to articulate ALL the work of NDE within one (or more) of the tenets.

**First Year Teacher Employer Survey** Work is underway for statewide implementation. We anticipate the surveys will be generated mid-May to all NE public/private/ESU/state-operated systems. We will appreciate your help to advise administrators that this is happening and the importance of their response. Depending on time during the January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting, we would like to have some discussion about fine-tuning.....if not in January, we will add this to the March agenda.

**Praxis Core Academic Skills Testing** Will be available via Continuous Testing effective Monday, Feb. 2.