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## PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM RATIONALE

**DATE:** February 15, 2023

**TO:** Deborah A. Frison, Ed.D.  
Deputy Commissioner of Education

**FROM:** Brad Dirksen, Office of Accountability, Accreditation, and Program Approval Administrator

**PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM:** Approve proposed repeal of Rule 23 (92 NAC 23) Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers and Administrators

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE (contract/grant/rule/program/other):** rule

**RATIONALE/BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Chapter 23 was adopted pursuant to 79-809 of the Nebraska Revised Statutes (R.R.S.). 79- 809 sets the maximum, not the minimum, that the Nebraska State Board of Education may require for the issuance of any entry-level certificate which includes satisfactorily demonstrating basic skills competency. The purpose of the proposed repeal of Rule 23 is eliminate the requirement for educators to demonstrate basic skills competency, as defined in 79-807 (R.R.S.), when applying for an entry-level certificate.

Nebraska is currently experiencing an educator shortage and is looking at eliminating unnecessary and duplicative barriers for educators related to certification while ensuring high standards are retained. Most research finds that certification exams are not strong predictors of teaching effectiveness. Basic skills competency examinations also add to costs for new educators. Additionally, a baccalaureate degree and completion of an approved educator preparation program (including student teaching) is required for an initial teaching certificate and these requirements demonstrate an applicant has the basic skills to be a teacher. This would not preclude an educator preparation program or school system from instituting basic skills testing requirement for those entering into a program or being hired as a teacher but would allow that decision to be one of local control. 33 states do not require a basic skills competency examination to be certificated as an educator.

The repeal would allow Nebraska to be more competitive in recruiting teachers as no other states that border Nebraska require basic skills competency examinations for certification. The repeal of Chapter 23 will result in an increase in the number of certificated teachers in Nebraska.

A hearing was held on January 31, 2023. The Rules and Regulations Committee discussed the proposed repeal during the February 2023 committee meeting.

**PROPOSED BOARD MEETING (MONTH/YEAR):** March 2023

**ESTIMATED COST:** \$650.00



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**FOR CONTRACTS AND GRANTS:**

- Indicate the Funding Source:
- New or Renewal:
- If renewal, date of first approval:

**FOR NEW CONTRACTS OR OTHER CONTRACTS REQUIRING PROCUREMENT:**

- Indicate the method of procurement:
- Rationale for method of procurement:
- Rationale for contractor selection:

**FOR GRANT SUBAWARDS:**

- Describe the grantee selection process:

*\*Updated 02.07.2023*