



Nebraska Council on Teacher Education

Nebraska State Board of Education Educator Preparation Advisory Committee

Full Council Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

Country Inn & Suites – Lincoln, NE

- Present:**
- HED – P. Adams; S. Alford; A. Buschelman; D. Chism; E. DeHart; A. Fette; T. Frey; J. Jansky; D. Karr; D. Mickey; L. Nelson; M. Ritzdorf; L. Sankey; N. Shudak; S. Skretta; K. Swain;
 - NASB – D. Blakely; L. Wagner
 - NCAPE – B. Ziegler
 - NCCA –
 - NCSA – C. Boyer; K. Lofquist; K. Saum-Mills; S. Smith
 - TSB – T. Jacobs; K. Mace
 - NSEA – J. Benson; D. Casey; M. Edquist; D. Garcia; S. Loney; P. Ludeke; M. Simsic; D. Moss; C. Rice; S. Stake; E. Ventura
 - NDE – B. Dirksen; C. Waddle

- Alternates:**
- HED – E. Griesch; J. Hearn; S. Holmes; S. Kemp; E. McDonnell-Jones

- Guests:**
- HED – D. King; C. Romanuck Murphy
 - NSEA – T. Tystad
 - NDE – M. Beiermann; K. Elmshaeuser

- Absent Without Alternate Replacement:**
- NCCA – P. Illich
 - NCSA – J. Schwartz; J. Harris; D. Lewis; J. McDowell; C. Worrell
 - NSEA – S. Brown; L. Perez;
 - NDE – K. Heineke

<u>HED</u> - Higher Education	<u>NCSA</u> -NE Council of School Administrators
<u>NCCA</u> -NE Community College Association	<u>TSB</u> – Teachers State Board Appointed
<u>NASB</u> -NE Association of School Boards	<u>NSEA</u> - NE State Education Association
<u>NCAPE</u> -NE Council on American Private Education	<u>NDE</u> – NE Dept. of Education

- 9:30 A.M. First General Session:** Sarah Skretta for Mark Lenihan, NCTE President
- Declaration of Legal Meeting
 - Call for Public Comments
 - Approval of October 14, 2022 Full Council Meeting Minutes (Roll Call Vote)
Minutes were approved
 - Report of December 9, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting
- 10:00 A.M. Rule Status Reports-** Brad Dirksen – NDE; A review of issues affecting the Rules and potential changes to the Rules was given. These Rules are:
- Rule 20, *Regulations for the Approval of Teacher Education Programs*
 - Rule 21, *Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Counsel, Supervise, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*

- Rule 23, *Regulations for the Basic Skills Competency Testing of Teachers and Administrators*
- Rule 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements*
 - After rejection from the governor, the Rule has been revised, and is awaiting public hearing, possibly in April. Endorsement revisions include: School Librarian, Elementary Education, Social Studies (including grade bands for the various Social Studies endorsements), World Language, Principal, English Language Arts and Secondary English.
 - Special Education endorsements presentation will be made to NCTE by Kris Elmshaeuser at NDE.

Informational Items:

- **Legislative Update:** Lane Carr- NDE;
Carr discussed the state board priorities and how they intersect with legislative work. Other topics included prioritizing bills, new members on the education committee, new legislative members, school safety, and basic skills/content tests. Bills for legislative consideration include:
 - LB385 - teacher recruitment/retention;
 - LB413 - interstate compact, transfer of certificates to be valid in multiple states;
 - LB519 - eliminate certification fees, changes in Excellence in Teaching and funding for student teachers;
 - LB603 - alternative certification;
 - LB762 - teacher apprenticeship program;
 - LB188- Allows veterans with experience in military to be able to teach
 Potential bills of interest:
 - CTE funding bill;
 - LB673 - mapping of schools for school safety;
 - LB516 - grants, mental health involving school safety;

10:30 A.M. BREAK

NDE Updates: Brad Dirksen - NDE

- Commissioner search process- application deadline is March 2; selection is week of April 3.
- Alternatives to content tests - need to align with Rule 24. Trying to reduce barriers and provide alternatives for content testing. Suggestions/comments include:
 - If a candidate is successfully employed for 2 years in a content area, then this should pass for the content test requirements.
 - A singular high-stakes test isn't the best for certifying teachers— competency can be determined in other ways.
 - Are working on draft requirement for in-state candidates to take the test, but if not passing the test, there should be alternatives in demonstrating content knowledge.
 - Possibly a conditional or alternative teaching permit requiring teaching for 2 years in lieu of taking the test.
 - Why make candidates pay for and take the content test if they can get certified by teaching 2 years anyway?
 - Would like to see changes in the content tests or get rid of the content test requirement altogether.
- Special Education endorsement revision recommendations- Kris Elmshaeuser, NDE; Ad hoc committee recommendations were explained by Kris. Some endorsements are up for deletion, as they are embedded elsewhere and haven't had any of these endorsements issued for a few years. Would like an extension ending date of 2027

to be placed on endorsements up for deletion, and to keep them listed with this extension.

- A Special Education definition will be included in the definitions section of Rule 24.
 - Consistent grade levels are to be imposed on the SPED supplemental endorsements that remain active in Rule 24.
 - Recommend changes on SPED Visual Impairment and Deaf and Hard of Hearing endorsements from subject to supplemental endorsements with grade level being birth through grade 12.
 - SPED Behavior intervention Specialist – changed grade level span and changed guidelines.
 - SPED Early Intervention Specialist – required hours were reduced; changed guidelines; are keeping it a supplemental endorsement.
 - SPED Generalist – changed grade level span; will be a subject endorsement with 30 hours of SPED courses required; are also changes in the guidelines.
- Call for Wayne State College folio reviewers
 - Program Approval Schedule:
 - Peru State College onsite visit completed September 2022- awaiting CAEP accreditation
 - University of Nebraska Omaha onsite visit completed October 2022- awaiting AAQEP accreditation
 - Nebraska Wesleyan University – Onsite Visit November 15-16, 2022
 - Wayne State College Offsite Visit April 17-21 2023
 - College of St. Mary Offsite Visit July 17-21 2023 State Review
 - Union College Offsite Visit Fall/Winter 2023
 - University of Nebraska-Kearney Offsite Visit Fall/Winter 2023
 - York University Offsite Visit Fall/Winter 2023

12:00

New Business- Sarah Skretta

- Announcements and Standing Committee Agenda Review
 - Special Education endorsement revisions
 - Board legislative and regulatory priorities
 - If applicable, vote on Executive Committee statement on basic skills requirement

12:10 P.M.

Lunch: Standing Committee Discussions

1:15 P.M.

Second General Session: Reconvened by Skretta

- **Standing Committee Chairs present recommendations/findings:**
 - Committee A:** Susan Stake presented these discussion points and recommendations:
 - Support deletion of the SPED endorsements listed for deletion;
 - Keep both SPED Visually Impaired and SPED Deaf and Hard of Hearing as subject endorsements;
 - Support proposed changes to the SPED Early Intervention Specialist;
 - SPED Generalist – would like grade levels to be K-8, 6-12 and K-12; needs to go back to ad hoc committee for review;
 - Approve SPED Supervisor changes;
 - Eliminate content testing entirely.
 - Committee B:** Caroline Rice presented these discussion points and recommendations:
 - Send all special education endorsements back to ad hoc for review;

- SPED Early Childhood Special Education – reconsider eliminating it;
- Review all the grade level bands as they don't seem to be consistent;
- SPED Supervisor – content exam isn't consistent with other administrative endorsements;
- Accept PK-12 Policy Priority (primarily #6) statement as written;
- Rule 23 statement – accept repeal of Rule 23;
- Standing Committee B nominations of Pat Ludeke as chair and Ed Ventura as secretary 2023-2024/2024-2025 term.

Committee C: Jennifer Jansky presented these discussion points and recommendations:

- SPED Generalist formatting needs to be consistent with other SPED endorsements;
- Committee had concerns with changing the SPED Visual Impairment and Deaf and Hard of Hearing endorsements from subject to supplemental endorsements, as these two endorsements could fit either as subject or supplemental; out-of-state applicants may not be able to get certified if these are supplemental; a supplemental endorsement doesn't require student teaching, and these endorsements should definitely require student teaching; the 36 required credit hours aligns more with a subject endorsement;
- Grade bands aren't consistent across all SPED endorsements;
- Content testing—why are they required; 2 years teaching experience in lieu of content testing was discussed.

1:40-2:40 P.M. Committees reconvene to discuss committee recommendations/findings:

- **Standing Committee Reports:**

Committee A: - Susan Stake presented these motions:

- Support deletion of SPED endorsements listed;
- Keep the SPED Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing endorsements as subject endorsements and return to the ad hoc committee for consideration of the appropriate endorsement types;
- Send SPED Generalist back to ad hoc committee to discuss grade levels and consider K-8 level (instead of K-6);
- Support grade level changes to these endorsements: Audiologist, Orientation and Mobility Specialist, School Psychologist, Speech-Language Pathologist, and Speech-Language Technician;
- Eliminate the Praxis content exams requirement;
- Accept the recommended wording to NCTE statement on repealing Rule 23.

Committee B: Caroline Rice presented these motions:

- Accept deletion of SPED endorsements except the SPED Early Childhood Special Education endorsement;
- Accept Priority 6 policy as written;
- Repeal Rule 23.

Committee C: Jenny Jansky presented these motions:

- Eliminate 6 SPED endorsements by including the statement that they will not be offered after 2027;
- Accept revisions to other SPED endorsements with the provision that the grade levels be aligned in all the SPED endorsements;
- Approve the NCTE statement to repeal Rule 23 as is;
- Send SPED Visual Impairment and Deaf and Hard of Hearing endorsements back to the ad hoc committee for consideration as subject endorsements;
- Language for both out-of-state applicants and in-state applicants align regarding having two or more years of teaching experience in the

endorsement area to demonstrate content knowledge in the endorsed area in place of the content test.

- **Full Council action and/or discussion related to Standing Committee Reports** (roll call vote if needed)
 - Motion made and seconded to accept the Rule 23 statement to repeal basic skills testing. Roll call vote taken: Motion approved;
 - Motion made and seconded to eliminate the content test exam requirement. Roll call vote taken: Motion approved;
 - Motion made to repeal the previous motion/approval to eliminate the content test exam requirement. Roll call vote taken: Motion approved – previous motion was repealed.
 - Motion made to support the content test policy revisions as written. Roll call vote taken: Motion approved;
 - Motion made to send all the SPED endorsements back to the ad hoc committee for further consideration/discussion/possible changes on the revisions brought forth to the NCTE committee. Roll call vote taken: Motion approved.

3:40 P.M. **Adjournment:** Sarah Skretta declared the meeting adjourned.

Please mark your calendars! Final NCTE Meeting Date for 2022-2023:

June 9, 2023

Thank you for your service this year!