

DATE: November 20, 2024

RE: **Executive Summary** of Proposed Revisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21 (Rule 21) Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools.

Attached is a copy of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21 (Rule 21), *Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools*. You will find an executive summary of the process and substantive revisions below.

The State Board of Education approved revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 21, *Regulations for the Issuance of Certificates and Permits to Teach, Provide Special Services, and Administer in Nebraska Schools* (Rule 21) in June of 2023 which became effective in February 2024. In June of 2023, the Rules and Regulations Committee of the State Board of Education signaled a need for additional revisions to certification regulations. The Nebraska Department of Education staff received input from certification applicants, educator preparation program professionals, teachers, administrators, and other interested parties to identify policy issues and explore solutions since July of 2023. The Rules and Regulations Committee has had ongoing conversations regarding policy issues and solutions regarding certification and endorsement regulations since September of 2023.

The Department has utilized the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE) as an advisory group to aid in the identification of policy issues, propose solutions, and provide feedback to potential revisions. NCTE is an advisory group that includes equal representation of teachers, educator preparation programs, and governance groups, total of 48 members (16 members per group). NCTE has met four times since October of 2023 and has provided substantial feedback to the revision process. Additionally, department staff engaged the Metropolitan Omaha Educational Consortium (MOEC) Human Resources Task Force in 2024 in the process of identifying policy issues, discussing potential solutions, and providing feedback regarding potential revisions.

Based on stakeholder discussions and direction from the Rules and Regulations committee, Department staff created a public input draft of Rule 21. The public input draft was posted on the department website on August 16, 2024, which allowed for public input through September 13, 2024. The feedback from the public input draft, including NCTE, was discussed at the October 2024 State Board meeting.

Revisions to Rule 21 were made based on the public input received as directed by the State Board Rules and Regulations Committee. The revisions made to the public input draft include:

- A. 02.15, add a definition for “equivalent professional development”
- B. Created one set of renewal requirements for regular teaching certificates and one set of renewal requirements for administrative certificates regardless of the amount of time the certificate has expired

The revisions aim to: (1) remove certification barriers, (2) ensure alternative pathways, (3) retain quality, (4) simplify the system, and (5) align regulations with recent statutory changes.

A summary of the substantive changes from the current Rule 21 contained in the draft rule revision include:

1. 002.08, 002.13, and 002.30, add definitions to operationalize Neb. Rev. Stat. 1505, Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact;
2. 002.15, add a definition for “equivalent professional development”;
3. 003.01, elimination of transcripts from Nebraska standard institutions of higher education when a certification officer provides a recommendation to the Department for the purpose of certification;
4. 004.06 and 004.07, provides for equivalent professional development to be considered toward renewal requirements of administrative certificates while also simplifying the renewal requirements, making no distinction to the length of time the certificate has expired;
5. 005.04, 005.09, and the elimination of 005.10, provides for equivalent professional development to be considered toward renewal requirements of regular teaching certificates while also simplifying the renewal requirements, making no distinction to the length of time the certificate has expired;
6. 005.10 through 005.12, simplifies the alternative program teaching permit from seven pathways to one inclusive pathway;
7. 005.13 through 005.15, operationalizes the alternative teaching certificate as identified in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-8,145.01;
8. 005.26, aligns the credit hour requirement for local substitute permit holders to an equivalent level required for a temporary certificate as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-8,145;
9. 005.28 through 005.30, creates a Paraprofessional Substitute Teaching Permit allowing paraprofessionals who hold this permit the ability to substitute teach with a limited scope of practice;
10. 005.26 through 005.30, eliminates the Nebraska Entry Teaching Permit as the permit type does not provide any additional flexibility given the combination of revisions made to this chapter;
11. 006, revisions made to align temporary certificates to Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-808 and 79-8,145; and
12. 009.03, revisions to align Military Permit with Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-813.