

DATE: December 5, 2024

RE: **Executive Summary** of Proposed Revisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24 (Rule 24) Regulations for Certificate Endorsements.

The State Board of Education approved revisions to Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 24, *Regulations for Certificate Endorsements* (Rule 24) in June of 2023 which became effective in June 2024. In June of 2023, the Rules and Regulations Committee of the State Board of Education signaled a need for additional revisions to certificate endorsement 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 24. 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 24 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. 03.14 and 003.15, added definitions for “equivalent professional education” and “equivalent professional education provider”
- B. 004.10A, enable Nebraska approved educator preparation programs to reduce total required credit hours for any teaching endorsement by up to fifty (50) percent based on competency
- C. Eliminate the requirement for additional student teaching for educators adding an endorsement

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 changes from the current Rule 24 contained in the Rule 24 – Draft -12-3-24 Non-Substantive Revisions document the Rules and Regulations Committee brings to the Board include:

1. 003.08, eliminate the identification of a singular company to be utilized for a content examination;
2. 004.01, eliminate the requirement of a content test to qualify for an endorsement;
3. 004.03, provide for additional pathways to earn additional endorsements as outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-810;

4. 004.03A, eliminate requirement for additional student teaching requirements for applicants adding an endorsement;
5. 004.10A, provide educator preparation programs the ability to reduce the total required credit hours for any teaching endorsement by up to fifty (50) percent based on demonstrated competency in the endorsement area;
6. 005.02D1, 005.03D2, and 005.04D1; eliminate redundancy of the two years of teaching experience requirement as 92NAC21 requires two years of teaching experience to qualify for an administrative certificate;
7. 006.14, add Computer Science endorsement;
8. 006.56, revise semester hour requirements to reflect endorsement hours needed in special education content;
9. 006.59, adjust regulations allowing for undergraduate semester hours to accepted toward a Special Education Early Childhood endorsement;
10. 006.60, adjust semester hour requirements for the Special Education Early Intervention Specialist endorsement; and
11. 008, add designated endorsements section to comply with Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-810.