

## Highlights of the July Kansas State Board of Education Meeting

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TOPEKA – After several months of discussion, the Kansas State Board of Education (KSBE) voted to approve the Coalition of Innovative School Districts' (CISD) request to implement a Specialized Teaching Certificate that would provide these districts the flexibility to hire non-licensed professionals or licensed professionals in areas outside of their area of licensure in order to fill hard to fill teacher vacancies. This will be a one year pilot limited to the current six Innovative School Districts, which are McPherson, Concordia, Blue Valley, KCK, Hugoton and Marysville.

Key points of the Specialized Certificate:

- The six CISDs will only consider using the Specialized Certificate in instances where they are unable to secure a licensed educator to fill the position.
- The Specialized Certificate will be issued by the Coalition of Innovative Districts, not KSDE.
- The Certificate cannot be granted for positions that include federal requirements such as Special Education and Title funded positions.
- Candidates for the Specialized Certificate must hold a college or equivalent degree.
- The Innovative School District will complete the background check and fingerprinting process on qualified candidates as required by Kansas Statute.
- The Kansas State Board of Education will have final approval on all applications for Specialized Certificates.
- The Certificate will specify the endorsement area(s) and the qualified candidate will only be authorized to teach in the area(s) designated on the certificate.
- The Certificate will be valid for a period of one year and may be renewed on an annual basis.
- The Certificate is non-transferrable and will automatically become void upon resignation or termination from the hiring district.
- The hiring district will be responsible for providing any training, professional development, evaluation and support needed for teachers hired under the CISD Specialized Certificate Program.
- Certificated teachers will be held to the same performance standards and will be evaluated following the same evaluation procedures established for fully licensed teachers.

The KSBE will review the program in one year.

Board members reviewed the results of the 2014-15 Licensed Personnel Report. This report includes information submitted by each Kansas school district about the professional and demographic characteristics of licensed personnel in state accredited schools across Kansas. The recently reported data show that nearly 41 percent of Kansas' educators have less than 10 years of experience, 29.41 percent have 10 to 19 years of experience and 29.73 percent have 20 or more years of experience. Licensed personnel with 20 or more years of experience teach 28.48 percent of general education assignments and 27.03 percent of special education assignments compared to 43 percent and 42.03 percent respectively for licensed personnel with less than 10 years of experience. When looking at exit data, the two most common reasons cited for teacher movement were retirement (2,326) and moving to another Kansas school district (2,174). Seven hundred-forty teachers were reported as having left the profession, 654 moved out of state and 637 were terminated. During this same reporting period, KSDE issued nearly 1,000 licenses to professionals coming from out of state.

Next month, the board is scheduled to act on a licensure policy that would allow elementary teachers to teach pre-kindergarten and early childhood teachers to teach kindergarten.

Laura Jurgensen and Julie Ehler, representing KSDE's Early Childhood, Special Education, and Title Services team, walked the board through proposed changes to the Emergency Safety Intervention (ESI) regulations that will need to be made in order to comply with Senate Substitute for Substitute House Bill 2170, Freedom from Unsafe Restraint and Seclusion Act, (HB 2170) which became law on June 4. The most significant proposed changes to the regulations are required changes and include: Amending the definitions of emergency safety intervention, physical restraint, and seclusion so that these definitions match HB 2170; the parental notification requirement, which now requires districts to notify parents the same day of an ESI incident; and including a process to allow a parent to request an administrative review at the state level of a local board of education's decision when a parent files a complaint on ESI. HB 2170 requires the regulations be adopted by the board on or before March 1, 2016. The board is scheduled to vote on these proposed changes in August.

The board voted unanimously to approve the Kansas Curricular Standards for Visual Arts. These standards, which were updated to align with the national visual arts standards, are organized into four categories: Creating – conceiving and developing new artistic ideas and work; Presenting – interpreting and sharing artistic work; Responding – understanding and evaluating how the arts convey meaning; and Connecting – relating artistic ideas and work with personal meaning and external content. The new standards and resources will be housed within the KSDE website.

Olathe Northwest High School science teacher Sue Rippe, who was recently inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame, was invited to present to the board about her career in Kansas education. Sue is only the 10th person from Kansas to receive this honor and credited her success to her current and former school districts (Olathe and Wichita) and said she surrounds herself with professionals who challenge her to be better. In line with how the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards are driving students towards more rigor, Sue described how Kansas' adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards is shifting student learning from memorizing facts to explaining phenomena through inquiry. Among her most innovative accomplishments, Sue implemented a Workplace Skills Portfolio to assist students in their career explorations and helped to develop internships with partners like Children's Mercy Hospital and The Boeing Company.

KSDE secured a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to conduct a statewide recess survey for elementary students in conjunction with the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education and Dance on the project. Mark Thompson, KSDE's project director of Health Kansas Schools reported the survey was distributed to 884 Kansas Physical Education teachers and included 22 items that addressed the number of recess periods provided at each grade level, the length and structure of recess, rules regarding indoor recess and withholding recess as punishment, space and equipment available for recess and the school's budget for recess equipment and supplies.

The survey revealed that 61 percent of elementary students are provided two daily recess periods. The majority of respondents reported students having 75 percent or more of the available recess time to be physically active and more than 60 percent of students were reported to be physically active. The survey also identified some areas for improvement. Sixty-one percent of respondents reported not having lunch recess before students eat, only 41 percent indicated their schools have a policy prohibiting withholding recess as punishment, 71 percent reported there is no budget or less than \$500 budget for recess equipment and supplies and 41 percent indicated the available free space for recess as being "adequate."

Based on these survey findings, the following recommendations were shared with the board:

- Where possible, students should have two recess periods of 15-20 minutes each per day.
- One of the two recess periods should be scheduled during the morning, prior to lunch.
- Schools should assure the space and equipment for recess are adequate and safe.
- Recess should not be withheld for academic or punitive reasons.
- Schools should offer recess that encourages all students to be physically active.
- Recess should be viewed as a critical component to the well-being of students.
- Recess should allow students to be physically active and to mentally decompress.

Other items before the board included discussion on budget options for FY 2017, receiving a quarterly update on the implementation of the Next Generation Science Standards and acting on appointments to the Emergency Safety Intervention Task Force.

The next meeting of the Kansas State Board of Education is slated for August 11-12 in Room 102 of the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka.