

Certification Officers Subgroup
Meeting Minutes
WACTE, April 26, 2017

Temporary permits

- Permits will no longer be issued by teacher preparation programs.
- Permits issued with Randy Dorn's signature are invalid.
- District can request a rush on emergency substitute certificate applications but this is a separate action from the institutional recommendation for the residency teaching certificate.

Endorsements

- National endorsement standards will be adopted and replace current WA standards; see Tab 5 information from the March 2017 PESB meeting.
- No re-approval endorsement process will be required; align courses with test frame works
- Notification from Nick at PESB; chart on PESB website for timeline to change to NES is correct; some content exams will remain as WEST-E.

Pathways

- Pending formal approval from PESB pathway 2 will be discontinued.
- All endorsements will fall under pathway 1 with the exceptions of:
 1. bilingual
 2. early childhood education
 3. early childhood special education
 4. elementary education
 5. special education
 6. ELL
- Proposed change would go into effect on 6/26.

File Maintenance

- Input was requested on how IHEs maintain certification files (i.e. only digital files paper/digital combination, retention, etc).
- No one standard is used by each IHE. Some IHEs with NCATE accreditation follow NCATE guidelines for keeping paper files; others scan and then shred all documents.

WEST-B exemptions

- WAC states that any WEST-B alternative tests are for out-of-state candidates applying to a masters or post-bacc program. Patti Larriva from PESB joined the conversation by phone and noted that these alternative exams can also be used by applicants in state.
- Questions were raised on whether these alternative tests could also apply to applicants to undergrad teacher prep programs
- Praxis 1 can ask for extended time (time and a half), which gives second language learners more of an ability to pass; also military personnel who have taken alternative exams while living in other states, and are pursuing a BA degree are currently unable to use those scores under the current WAC
- We compared the WAC to the corresponding RCW and they appear to conflict. It was discussed that we have always been directed that RCW trumps WAC; one of our newest members will be emailing David Brenna to confirm.
- The Certification Officers group approved that a formal proposal be made requesting all alternatives to WEST-B tests be applicable to all teacher prep program candidates. Maggie Foran will draft up a proposal on our behalf.
- Concerns about misinformation re: SAT scores on the PESB website was communicated to Patti

Pre-Residency Clearance

- Proposed change to WAC would allow teacher candidates who need to reapply for pre-residency clearance (PRC) to do so even if fingerprint clearance has dropped off of the OSPI system (after two years). The new WAC, if approved, would essentially state that fingerprint and character clearance must be clear at all times OR have a current valid WA license, OR pre-residency clearance
- David Brenna will be requesting input from Field Directors regarding this proposal.
- Candidates are given the option in their eCert account to renew PRC within 3 months of PRC expiring; prior to this 3-month window, the option to renew is not available. If they renew during this period, they will not have to be re-fingerprinted per the new WAC, and PRC will be granted for an additional 2 years.
- OSPI does not look for fingerprint clearance if PRC is current.
- MOAs require fingerprint clearance – questions were raised on whether this WAC change would affect MOAs.

Viewing E-Cert

- Who can assign/access test scores; roles and access chart supplied by OSPI
- OSPI gets all WEST-B, WEST-E and NES test results for WA applicants
- Still need to email Tonya to make any changes after recommendation is submitted

Emergency and Conditional

- Clarification was provided on the difference between Emergency and Conditional certificates:
Emergency = degree and substantially completed program (substantial is within one year of completion)
Conditional = expertise
- Changes to WAC were made to the requirements for an emergency cert school counselor; now required to have a BA and be enrolled in a program rather than an MA and substantially completed a program; refer to Tab 8 from the March 2017 PESB meeting.
- Pro-Cert is proposed to be eliminated for ESAs; options would be to complete National Board certification or move to the second-tier continuing certificate; refer to Tab 11 from the March 2017 PESB meeting.
- Proposed and approved emergency amendment to Administrator Professional Certification; A 3 year extension for administrator certificates expiring 2019 or sooner will require a paper application for renewal. Refer to Tab 12 from the March 2017 PESB meeting.

Intern Sub vs Emergency Sub

- Some IHEs who admit students who already hold an emergency substitute certificate notify those student that it will be treated as an intern sub certificate
- 450 mentor hours during student teaching is required for cert per WAC
- Some IHEs are having candidates apply for emergency sub cert instead of intern sub *with intern sub cert parameters*, in order to avoid the lag time between completion of student teaching and issuance of certificate; especially given the “no more permits” directive.

Certification Hand book

- The group supported the idea of needing a centralized handbook that would have updated information on the roles, rules and responsibilities of certification officers.
- A handbook would be an important training resource for new certification officers
- Coleen Putaansuu shared that she has begun this work, but because so many changes occur during spring and summer, it is best to start the work in November.

Future Meetings

- We intend to meet as a subgroup at each of the three WACTE meetings

- We agreed that for now, we will continue to meet from 8:30-11:30 at said meetings, as we have much to discuss.
- Cathy Stephens shared that she is happy to continue to facilitate, unless others wish to do so.
- Meeting minutes will be continue to be taken and this role will rotate, based on who is in attendance. Volunteers are welcome!