

March 4, 2009

TO: Dr. Richard Strahorn, Larry Reznicek, Mike Bowman, Dan Espeland, Kirk Hughes, Sharon Rinker, Laurie Davis, Michelle Tarver

FROM: Connie J. Pollard

RE: K-6 certified teachers teaching in K-8 rural schools

First, I want to thank all of you for your time and dedication in presenting the Professional Teaching Standards Board with your concerns. The Board was very appreciative of the preparation and thoroughness of the information you shared.

After some discussion based on your presentation, the Board adopted the following policy, effective February 26, 2009:

Teachers with a K-6 endorsement, teaching in a K-8 small rural school as defined by WDE, shall receive a waiver to teach grades K-8 upon a request annually by the district to PTSB.

Subsequently, a district with a K-8 rural school, may submit a letter to the PTSB requesting a waiver, for reasons as stated above, when a K-6 certified teacher is assigned to teach 7th or 8th grade students in a rural K-8 school. It is recommended that the district submit such a letter to PTSB in the fall when teaching assignments and student enrollment is determined. This letter should include: 1) a formal request for a waiver, 2) the name(s) of the K-6 certified teacher(s), and 3) the name of the school(s) in which the teacher(s) is assigned. A copy of all district letters received by PTSB will be sent to the Wyoming Department of Education to serve as documentation for the 602 report for teacher assignments.

Please understand that this policy does not address the NCLB issue of "highly qualified". PTSB will be working closely with WDE to determine how to address HQT under these situations.

The Board understands your time is valuable and that time away from your classrooms and administrative duties is burdensome. Again, the Professional Teaching Standards Board is grateful for your commitment to students and quality education.

Please call if you have any questions.