



# PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

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Date: March 25, 2015  
To: Superintendents, Directors (HR, Special Education, Curriculum, Business Services, Institution), and Principals  
From: Andrea Bryant, PTSB Executive Director  
RE: New Online Licensure System Update; Updated WY Constitution Exam; New Elementary Praxis Adoption; Substitute Permit Observation Hours; Demonstration of Competency Clarification; Updated Journalism Standards; New ASL Standards; and Model Code of Ethics for Educators

The Professional Teaching Standards Board (PTSB) continues to endeavor to be a valuable resource to the Wyoming education community. As part of that goal, PTSB has been engaging with districts and other educational stakeholders on a more frequent basis across the state. PTSB also strives to have excellent customer service, and we encourage districts and applicants to call us with any questions. We are available to meet with districts to discuss PTSB updates or concerns regarding licensure. We encourage districts to contact our office if they would like our team to visit or have suggestions to help us improve our services. Further, we understand the value of timely communication. This Director Memo provides brief updates on several areas of our work; if you would like more information on any of these topics, please contact our office.

## NEW ONLINE LICENSURE SYSTEM UPDATE

Enterprise Technology Services (ETS), the State agency responsible for implementing the new online licensure, assignment validation, and reporting system for PTSB and the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE), continues to forge ahead with development. The Board office has extended itself to work efficaciously with ETS in order to create a more than verdant product once it is time to go live with the system. While the date for going live remains pendulous, it is anticipated that merging into the new system will not begin any earlier than this fall. The new online licensure system will impact how applicants, workshop facilitators, and school districts interact with the system, which will replace the current online access. As a more definitive timeline is established, PTSB will present training sessions on using the new system.

## UPDATED WYOMING CONSTITUTION EXAM FOR INITIAL APPLICANTS

Our agency recently updated the Wyoming Constitution exam and accompanying study guide as a result of last November's elections. The updated exam and study guide were distributed to all of the proctors throughout the state, and the updated study guide has been available on our website since February 13, 2015. The outdated study guide was available until March 1, 2015, at which point it was removed from the PTSB website. Examinees had the option of which version of the exam they preferred to take until March 13, 2015. As of March 13, 2015, the outdated exam is no longer available and anyone now taking the exam is expected to know the updated information. Please contact our office if you have any questions regarding the updated Wyoming Constitution exam or accompanying study guide.

## PRAXIS: NEW ELEMENTARY EDUCATION EXAM ADOPTED

In September 2014, the Board adopted a new Praxis II exam for Elementary Education: *Praxis II 5001 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects*, which consists of four subtests: 5002 Reading and Language Arts, 5003 Mathematics, 5004 Social Studies, and 5005 Science. Applicants must earn the following minimum scores for each subtest: 5002 (157), 5003 (157), 5004 (155), and 5005 (159). Applicants may take all four subtests at the same time by registering for *5001 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects* or they may register to take or retake subtests individually, as well. Please note that PTSB will still accept the *Praxis II 5011 Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment* exam (discontinued by Praxis as of August 2014) if the applicant has taken and passed the exam with a score of 160 or higher.

With the adoption of the new Elementary Education Praxis II exam, PTSB will be updating applications to reflect this change. We would like to remind districts and applicants to print copies of the most current application directly from our website and only as needed to help applicants avoid submitting outdated application packets. This will prevent the submission of inaccurate information and ensure applicants do not inadvertently submit an incomplete application.

## **SUBSTITUTE PERMIT OBSERVATION HOURS CLARIFICATION**

In February 2014, amended PTSB Chapter 6 Rules went into effect requiring applicants who are completing the alternative route for a Classroom Substitute Permit to complete a minimum of thirty (30) clock hours of classroom observation including ten (10) clock hours at each level (elementary, junior/middle, and high school). Prior to February 2014, applicants were only required to complete the ten (10) hours of observation at the desired grade level(s) in which they wanted to substitute teach. The PTSB Permit Application form has been updated with this information; district representatives who sign off verifying completion of these observation hours are asked to ensure the applicant has met these new minimum requirements before signing the form. To review the updated Classroom Substitute Permit rules, please refer to PTSB Chapter 6 Section 2(b) available on the [PTSB website](#).

## **DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCY CLARIFICATION**

In August 2014, amended PTSB Chapter 3 Rules went into effect limiting the Demonstration of Competency (DOC) as an alternative route for adding an endorsement so that it is now available only to applicants who currently hold a teaching endorsement(s). Furthermore, the DOC can only be added at the grade level(s) which an applicant currently holds a teaching endorsement(s). As a tool for our applicants, PTSB offers a DOC Pre-Evaluation application (available on the [PTSB website](#)) to assist educators in outlining what previously completed coursework will apply toward a DOC, identifying outstanding requirements, and then allowing for pre-approval of proposed coursework to meet the remaining DOC requirements. To review the updated DOC rules, please refer to PTSB Chapter 3 Section 3(c) available on the [PTSB website](#).

## **STANDARDS UPDATE – JOURNALISM**

After going through Standards Review and the rules promulgation process, the updated PTSB Journalism endorsement standards were officially implemented in April 2014. As PTSB adopts new or updated standards, existing state-approved programs must periodically undergo Program Reviews to ensure the program continues to meet PTSB standards. As such, PTSB sent a notice that a Program Review would be required for ongoing state approval to the Journalism Endorsement Program at Northwest College (NWC) in Powell, Wyoming in November 2014; as of yet, NWC has not indicated their intent to undergo the required Program Review process. If Northwest College does not submit the required report by September 15, 2015, the program's status as a state-approved program will expire on December 31, 2015 and future completers will not be able to receive a Journalism endorsement by completing the NWC program. To review the updated Journalism standards, please refer to PTSB Chapter 4 Section 5(h) available on the [PTSB website](#).

## **STANDARDS UPDATE – AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Several years ago, the Wyoming Legislature added American Sign Language (ASL) as an approved foreign language to the Hathaway Success Curriculum and mandated that a new endorsement for this area be created. After the endorsement proposal process, and recent process of promulgating rules, American Sign Language (ASL) as a Foreign Language is now an approved endorsement area offered by PTSB. Districts currently offering ASL have until fall of 2017 before teachers hired to teach this subject must hold this new endorsement. There are two routes to receive this endorsement. The first route includes completing a program from a regionally accredited institution that leads to an Institutional Recommendation. The second route is through the Demonstration of Competency (DOC). PTSB has adopted two tests for the DOC route from which applicants may choose: American Sign Language Proficiency Interview (ASLPI) earning a Level 3 or higher or Sign Language Proficiency Interview (SLPI) earning an Advanced or higher. To review the new American Sign Language (ASL) as a Foreign Language standards, please refer to PTSB Chapter 4 Section 5(b) available on the [PTSB website](#).

## **MODEL CODE OF ETHICS FOR EDUCATORS**

Recent correspondence from the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC) offered a glimpse of the first ever Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE). While many professional fields have codes of conduct that have been used in practice for a great number of years, educators have never adopted a professional code which defines and identifies the ethical expectations of the teaching professional. The MCEE will be considered for adoption by NASDTEC at the Annual Conference this June. The draft MCEE is available for viewing at: <http://www.nasdtec.net/default.asp?page=MCEE>. After NASDTEC adopts the final version of the MCEE, the Wyoming Professional Teaching Standards Board will then, as will all states independent of each other, consider whether it wants to adopt the MCEE in its final form, make any modifications, choose to ignore it, or use it in coordination with or replace the current [PTSB Professional Conduct Guide](#).