



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

1920 Thomas Avenue, Suite 100
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

tel: 307.777.7291
toll free: 800.675.6893
fax: 307.777.8718
<http://wyomingptsb.com>

Date: May 9, 2019

To: Superintendents, Directors (HR, Special Education, Curriculum, Business Services, Other Educational Entities), and Principals

From: PTSB Staff

RE: Computer Science Routes to Licensure

PTSB would like to clarify and assist Wyoming educators and districts with the routes to Computer Science licensure. There appears to be some miscommunication in this area, and we would like to provide more information.

PTSB currently has **four** routes to licensure. They are as follows:

Option 1: Program Completion

This route means that an individual would be attending (online or in person) a college or university and completing a Computer Science program. The college/university must be regionally accredited and the program must lead to teacher licensure. Wyoming community colleges (Casper College, Western Wyoming Community College, and Sheridan College) have a starter program that would finish out with the program at the University of Wyoming. There are other programs available outside of the state, we just encourage educators to make sure the college is accredited and that the program leads to licensure. After completing the program, applicants would submit the Add Endorsement application.

Option 2: Demonstration of Competency

This route requires an individual to have 27 semester hours of coursework related to Computer Science, with nine of those credits having been obtained within the last 5 years. This route also requires that the individual passes the Computer Science Praxis exam (Computer Science 5651) with a score of 149 or better. Applicants would first submit the Demonstration of Competency Pre-Evaluation application.

Option 3: Exception Authorization – Option #6

The Exception Authorization (EA) in Computing Technology, allows a Wyoming educator to teach a “slice” of computer science. In order to qualify for the EA, an educator must: hold a WY teaching license, be employed to teach a computer science course at a WY school district, and complete a district approved professional development plan. PTSB’s Computing Technology Application Review Committee will review the PD plan and will determine final approval. This



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

1920 Thomas Avenue, Suite 100
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

tel: 307.777.7291
toll free: 800.675.6893
fax: 307.777.8718
<http://wyomingptsb.com>

option only grants a teacher to teach **EXACTLY** what is on the approved professional development plan and not **ALL** areas of computer science. This option will be reviewed by the PTSB Board again in 2020, after the Computer Standards have been set.

Option 4: Consultant Specialist Permit

The Consultant Specialist Permit is designed to allow districts the ability to hire an industry professional to teach in their school. An individual will need to hold a bachelor's degree (or be working towards it) in their content area, they will need to be "highly and uniquely qualified" for the position they will be assigned to teach, and the district is required to request the permit to be issued in writing to the PTSB office with the explanation of why this candidate should be eligible for this option. This permit is valid for one year and may be renewed pending approval. This is also the permit we are using in place of Rural Waivers.

This is an exciting new chapter in education, and we are committed to helping Wyoming educators and districts find the path that suits them. Nicole Donbraska, PTSB's Professional Development Specialist, is the lead on this project. You may contact her via email (nicole.donbraska@wyo.gov) or by phone (307-777-7295) with any questions you may have. Nish Goicolea, Executive Director, (nish.goicolea@wyo.gov), and Brendan O'Connor, Assistant Director, (brendan.oconnor1@wyo.gov) are also available for questions or concerns.