



PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

2001 Capitol Avenue
Emerson Building, Rm. #128
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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

Date: June 4, 2021

From: Nish Goicolea, Ed.D, PTSB Executive Director

RE: PTSB Updates and Reminders

It has been an interesting year for everyone, including PTSB, and we are looking forward to the next school year. In the meantime, we have several updates and reminders to share with you all. First, as you look forward to the fall, please consider the various routes to licensure we have as you contemplate new hires and maneuvering current staff. You are always welcome to call me or any PTSB team member to discuss options or troubleshoot situations.

Standard Route: A candidate completes a traditional teacher preparation program that leads to licensure in that state and includes a practicum. The college/university can sign off on an Institutional Recommendation stating the individual met all program requirements.

Exception Authorizations/Alternative Routes: These routes or 'exceptions' are designed for individuals that do not meet all the requirements for a standard license but can be placed on an exception authorization (EA) as a provisional license until meeting all requirements.

EA Option #1 - This is available to Elementary Education and Social Studies Comprehensive applicants only. It is explicitly designed to allow the applicant additional time to complete the Praxis II testing required to obtain a Wyoming Standard Educator License. This EA is valid for one year and is not renewable.

EA Option #2 - This is available for individuals who have been assigned to teach in a content area in which they do not meet the requirements for full licensure/endorsement. This EA is valid for one year but is renewable for up to three years.

EA Option #3 - This is available to applicants hired by a Wyoming school district as an Administrator, School Counselor, School Social Worker, School Psychologist, or any other related service positions who do not hold full licensure in the area employed. This EA is valid for one year and is not renewable.

EA Option #4 Out-of-field Endorsement - (By District Request Only) - The Out-of-Field endorsement allows a currently licensed individual to be assigned to teach in a content area they do not now hold an endorsement in for a limited period of time. During that time, if they pass the Praxis or OPIexam in the new content area, the individual could add the endorsement to their existing license. A formal written explanation from the district superintendent of the circumstances must be included with the application. This EA is valid for two years and is not renewable. *Not available for all areas or to change grade band levels.*



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EA Option #5 - This is available to applicants hired by a school district as a Dual Language Immersion teacher who does not hold full licensure in this endorsement area. This EA is valid for one year and is renewable for up to three years.

COVID EA - This is for applicants unable to complete the requirements to meet initial licensure, renewal, or reinstatement requirements due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This EA must include a plan to meet missing requirements. This EA is valid for two years and is not renewable.

Professional, Industry, & Career Permit (PIC) - Last year, PTSB made significant changes to the PIC permit, which provides these educators with a route to acquire a standard license. Individuals who have held a PIC permit for at least ten (10) years and hold a bachelor's degree or higher may apply for a Standard Educator License with appropriate endorsements by verifying continuous teaching employment for ten (10) years or more for each field of occupational specialties.

Individuals holding a PIC permit for less than ten (10) years that wish to apply for a Standard Educator License must take the following courses or their equivalent, at a minimum, from an accredited institution:

- Foundations of development and learning
- Introduction to school law
- Introduction to special education
- Methods of instruction to include classroom management
- Introduction to Psychology
- Developmental Psychology

Exception Authorizations do NOT transfer to new districts - A reminder that an existing Exception Authorization (EA) does not allow individuals to transfer their EA's if a new district hires them. The educator must update their EA information, and the new district must sign off on the pending requirements. PTSB is in charge of licensure, not employment; therefore, we are not always aware when an educator changes a district.

Computer Science Reminder - PTSB now has seven (7) recognized state programs, all available online, for Computer Science Endorsement through the following institutions: the University of Wyoming, Western Wyoming Community College, Central Wyoming College, Northern Wyoming Community College District, Northwest College, Casper College, and Laramie County Community College. PTSB is collaboratively working with the Wyoming Department of Education to develop micro-credentials for computer science that will count towards professional development and could lead to endorsement in the future (but does not now). If your district needs more Computer Science educators, we have several mechanisms available to help. Please call us, and we will walk you through your options and situational needs.



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Agency Move - We have recently moved the agency to eliminate our private lease and offset budget costs. We are now located in the state-owned Emerson Building, 2001 Capitol Avenue, Room #128, in Cheyenne. We are on the corner of Capitol and 20th for those of you that visit us in person.

PTSB Online Applications & Remote Work - PTSB has been fortunate to function non-stop at full capacity in-person and remotely through the pandemic. The office remains open to the public Monday-Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm, and also online. We have separated and digitized all applications and can process everything online. Applicants can go to the PTSB website [http://wyomingptsb.com/](http://wyomingptsb.com) and complete their applications in a pdf form entirely online and later will be invoiced for payment.

U.S. & Wyoming Constitution Exams - A reminder that the U.S. and Wyoming Constitution Exams are now available for applicants to complete online.

Upcoming Board Meeting-Monday, June 21, 2021-Regular Board Meeting will be held in person at the Capitol Extension rooms in Cheyenne, WY.

Coaches Clinic: July 18 - 23, 2021 - Casper, WY. The Wyoming Coaches Association hosts this annual conference. This clinic is an excellent way for your coaches to earn renewal credits, take courses they need to add additional sports, and network with other coaches in the state.

WDE WAVE Conference: August 11-12, 2021-Virtual- Another great annual conference with the opportunity for professional development and PTSB credit. This year's topics include Professionalism, ethics, and confidentiality. Behavior management strategies. High-leverage practices to support students. Effective teacher-para collaboration strategies.

Questions/Comments/Concerns - We are available and open to all discussions that fall within the agency parameters of program approval, discipline, and licensure. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns you would like to share with PTSB, please do not hesitate to contact our office. The PTSB is actively working to improve dialogue, implement changes proactively, be a resource, and plan for the future to meet our mission "to ensure that every student is served by competent, ethical educators, who meet rigorous performance standards" in Wyoming. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.