



## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

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Date: March 2023

From: Brendan O'Connor, PTSB Executive Director

RE: Director's Memo

PTSB is continuing to celebrate its 30th anniversary, and are featuring different highlights and aspects of PTSB throughout the year on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/wyoPTSb>

### **GRADE BANDS AND EXCEPTION AUTHORIZATION OPTION #4**

PTSB staff remind districts about the limitations of Exception Authorization Option #4 - Out of Field. This option allows the applicant two (2) years, non-renewable, to successfully pass the Praxis test in the content area to be added for the grade levels the individual is already licensed in. This does not allow for adding Elementary Education or Special Education endorsements.

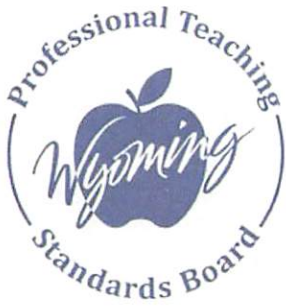
If districts need to move an educator to a different grade level than they currently are licensed for, the educator will need to complete a 45-hour (3 semester credit) practicum experience. This can be done through a college/university practicum course, or through a district-developed practicum experience using the requirements PTSB has established. Please contact PTSB for these requirements. A Secondary endorsed teacher (6-12) teaching the same content for 5th grade at a middle school is an example.

Elementary teachers can complete a practicum experience at the middle school or high school grades, plus use Exception Authorization #4 to demonstrate competency in the subject area at the secondary level to expand the grade levels they can teach.

Once the educator has completed either the practicum experience, or successfully passed the Praxis test, they will need to use the appropriate Add-Endorsement application form so PTSB staff can properly update their certificate.

### **NASDTEC**

PTSB is a member of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC). As a member PTSB abides by the NASDTEC Interstate Agreement which facilitates the reciprocity of educator licenses across states. NASDTEC also maintains the NASDTEC Educator Identification Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse). This is where all states report educator misconduct once a case is final and the disposition is made public. Most educator misconduct cases are prosecuted in administrative hearings, not a criminal court. If the educator



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is not arrested or fingerprinted, there will be no record of the misconduct in a state or federal criminal background check.

The information in the Clearinghouse is now available to P-12 public and private local education agencies (LEAs) and state-approved educator preparation providers (EPPs). The Ed ID Clearinghouse is a subscription-based resource for qualifying NASDTEC Associate Members. Interested districts can find more information on the NASDTEC website at:

[https://www.nasdtdec.net/page/ASSOC\\_CH\\_REG](https://www.nasdtdec.net/page/ASSOC_CH_REG)

### **RENEWAL REQUIREMENT CHANGES REMINDER**

- **Coaching Permit Renewals** - Those individuals holding a Coaching Permit now only need to complete two (2) PTSB credits (28 contact hours) for renewing their Permit.
  - First Aid / CPR must be current and is required at renewal. This counts for ½ credit. The remaining 1.5 credits must relate to coaching or working with students. The Wyoming Coaches Association annual Coaches Clinic sessions are approved to meet these requirements. NFHS provides a number of free and paid options for courses that meet this requirement. They can be found at: <https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
- **Substitute Permit Renewals** - Substitute permit holders now only need to complete two (2) PTSB credits (28 contact hours) for renewing their permit.
  - The Board encourages school districts to make substitutes aware of PD opportunities offered by the district, Wyoming Department of Education, or other organizations to help them meet renewal requirements. Substitutes can contact PTSB office or check our website (<https://wyomingptsb.com>) for our list of pre-approved professional development courses.
- **National Board Maintenance of Certification** - the new version of maintaining National Board Teacher Certification will be awarded **2.5** renewal credits. First time achievement of National Board Certified Teacher will be awarded **5** renewal credits.

### **RETENTION & RECRUITMENT TASK FORCE**

PTSB has partnered with the Wyoming Department of Education on the Retention and Recruitment Task Force. The goal of this task force is to review research on national best practices for retention and recruitment, to review data from the recent survey educators in the state completed, and to determine what themes, priorities, and potential solutions may be applicable to address teacher shortages being felt across the state. The Task Force is made up of teachers, principals, superintendents, former educators, parents, and industry representatives. At its March meeting the Task Force heard presentations from PTSB about Exception Authorizations and the Professional, Industry, Career (PIC) permits, WDE Computer Science micro-credential success, and two initiatives from the University of Wyoming College of



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Education: the Teacher Mentor Corp, and Master Educator Competency Program. The Task Force meets monthly and is targeting to have recommendations completed in May.

### APPRENTICESHIP

The Wyoming Teacher Apprenticeship initiative continues its work to meet long-term staffing needs in the state. Laramie County School District #1, Teton County School District #1, and Fremont County School District #24 are piloting the apprenticeship, and helping to work out all of the logistics required to make this a successful endeavor. PTSB and WDE are working with the Department of Workforce Services, Department of Labor, and other resources to establish sustainable funding. PTSB and WDE are also collaborating with UW, WGU, and other educator preparation providers to make sure apprentice's enrollment into programs is smooth and efficient. Please visit the WDE Apprenticeship webpage for current information:

<https://edu.wyoming.gov/for-district-leadership/wyoming-teacher-apprenticeship-initiative/>

### PTSB PRESENTATIONS

I appreciate the invitations and opportunities to present to a variety of professional organizations. I presented at the annual conferences for the Wyoming School Counselor Association (WySCA), and the Wyoming School Personnel Association (WASPA). PTSB Licensing Specialists attended the UW Teacher Fair in March. Please contact us if your association or district would like a presentation or to ask questions and get more information about PTSB.

### PROCESSING TIMES, CALL & EMAIL VOLUME

PTSB staff recently learned the Division of Criminal Investigations (DCI) processed over 35,000 fingerprints last year! It is currently taking about 3 weeks for DCI to process fingerprints and background checks. PTSB is currently processing applications between 4-6 weeks from the date the application is received in our office.

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **Monday, June 26, 2023**.

### 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!