



## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

2001 Capitol Ave.  
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Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

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Date: January 2023

From: Brendan O'Connor, PTSB Executive Director

RE: Director's Memo

I hope the new year and spring semester is going well so far for you and the students of Wyoming.

2023 marks the **30th year** of the Professional Teaching Standards Board!

PTSB is one of 13 autonomous Standards Boards in the nation. The Board's thirteen members are all practicing educators, half are appointed by the Governor and half are appointed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The Board is made up of elementary and secondary teachers, elementary and secondary principals, a district superintendent, related services personnel, a school board member, a community college representative, and leadership from the University of Wyoming's College of Education. All are professional educators monitoring and directing policies affecting educators.

We will be featuring different highlights and aspects of PTSB throughout the year on our Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/wyoPTSB>

### **RULES CHANGES**

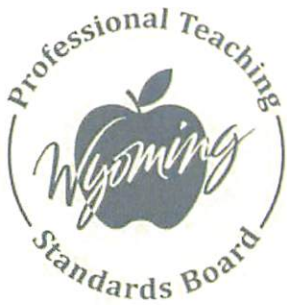
[PTSB Rules Chapter 2](#) were finalized December 14, 2022.

At the January 2023 meeting the Board adopted proposed rules (Chapters 3 & 4) to allow for PTSB-approved micro-credentials as a means of adding endorsements in content areas. Another change in these rules allows School Counselors and School Psychologists to provide services from Birth to Grade 12. There were no public comments received during the public comment period, and the rules now continue in the promulgation process awaiting the Governor's signature which is anticipated to occur after the Legislature adjourns in March.

### **COACHING**

A reminder that all Transitional Coaching applicants will have 1 year to complete Care & Prevention of Athletic Injuries. This allowance should help accommodate scheduling this training for coaches, and does not have to be completed before or during the season they are coaching. Transitional Coaches will receive a certificate so they may be hired and coach while completing Care & Prevention during the first year.

- Upon completion of Care & Prevention, Transitional Coaches need to send PTSB a Certificate of Completion of this training for our records. They will continue to



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have the additional 2 years to complete any other requirements for the Coaching Permit.

- The Transitional Coach Permit fee will only be charged once and will cover the full three years.

**Coaching Permit Renewals** - Those individuals holding a Coaching Permit now only need to complete two PTSB credits (28 contact hours) for renewing their Permit.

First Aid / CPR must be current and is required. This counts for ½ credit. The remaining 1.5 credits must relate to coaching or working with students. NFHS provides a number of free and paid options for courses that meet this requirement. They can be found at:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses>

*Our three Licensing Specialists are still working on moving all of the former Assistant Coach permits/endorsements to the new Coaching permit/endorsement while still processing all other incoming applications. Moving the coaches to the new endorsements and permits is a manual process that will take some time, and we are working as quickly and efficiently as possible.*

### **SUBSTITUTES**

The Board moved to reduce the number of renewal credits needed for Substitute Permits from 5 to 2. The rationale for the reduction was that substitute teachers are part-time employees who may not be aware of professional development opportunities offered by districts, may not have the time available to participate in the district PD, and may be less able to pay for courses that meet renewal requirements.

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**

For initial certification, a National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) demonstrates multiple performance-based teaching practices which meet the National Board Standards of accomplished teaching and Five Core Propositions. PTSB recognizes this effort by awarding 5 renewal credits for achievement of NBCT.

The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards' Maintenance of Certification (MOC) is a process that allows a NBCT to extend her/his certificate for five years. Maintaining certification is not the same as re-certification or going through the certification process again. While the evaluation of the MOC evidence is based on the Standards and Five Core Propositions as with certification, MOC has fewer parts and will take less preparation time than initial certification.



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The Board approved 2.5 renewal credits for teachers completing Maintenance of Certification for National Board Certification.

### **APPRENTICESHIP**

The Wyoming Teacher Apprenticeship application with the US Department of Labor was signed October 19, 2022. This initiative is to help districts use current employees to obtain on-the-job training and college coursework that will lead to a Bachelor's degree in Education and to full licensure in Wyoming through PTSB to meet long-term staffing needs. Completing the apprenticeship will take up to three years for those individuals who already have an Associate's degree. Laramie County School District #1, Teton County School District #1, and Fremont County School District #24 will be piloting the apprenticeship and partnering with WDE and PTSB to make this initiative a sustainable, workforce pipeline for the education system in Wyoming. These districts are currently recruiting, interviewing and hiring apprentices.

WDE has developed a webpage for all things Apprenticeship:

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

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

PTSB is again partnering with WDE on the Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The goal of this task force is to review research on national best practices for recruitment and retention, and to survey educators in the state to determine what themes, priorities, and potential solutions may be applicable to address teacher shortages being felt across the state. The Task Force will be comprised of teachers, principals, superintendents, former educators, parents, and industry representatives.

### **PROCESSING TIMES, CALL & EMAIL VOLUME**

The three PTSB Licensing Specialists continue diligently working to be sure your staff are properly licensed as quickly as possible. We are currently processing between 4-6 weeks from the date the application is received in our office. The Division of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is processing fingerprints and background checks around 3 weeks which impacts our turnaround time, too.

Please leave a voice message if calling – we get spammed with fake calls, and don't respond to calls without a message. Or just send an email. We will respond to messages and emails as quickly as possible.

### **PTSB PRESENTATIONS**

I appreciate the invitations and opportunities to present to a variety of professional organizations. This spring I will be presenting at the annual conferences for the Wyoming School Counselor Association, and the Wyoming School Personnel Association (WASPA). PTSB Licensing



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Specialists will be at the UW Teacher Fair in March. Please contact us if your association would like a chance to ask questions and get more information about PTSB.

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 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!

*Brendan W O'Leary*