

## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

2001 Capitol Ave.  
Emerson Building, Room #128  
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Date: July 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>

### **EXCEPTION AUTHORIZATIONS, INTERNSHIP PERMIT, CONSULTANT SPECIALIST PERMIT**

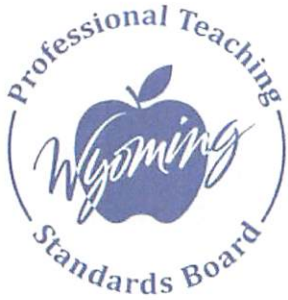
PTSB has experienced a rise in applications for exception authorizations, internships, and consultant specialist permits to help meet school district's staffing needs. Educators can be hired and act in the roles applied for, but additional support may be needed when dealing with IEPs or other IDEA-related requirements to ensure proper compliance.

- **Exception Authorizations (EAs)** - applicants must hold a bachelor's degree to be eligible. Can be used by those getting into education to complete a preparation program, or for current license holders to add endorsements. Valid for one (1) year. Some may be renewable. The applicant must be supervised by a fully licensed educator.
- **Internship Permit** - applicants must be in an educator preparation program that includes an internship—mostly these are for administrator or related services programs—but PTSB has issued a few for teacher candidates completing student teaching. The intern must be supervised by a fully licensed educator. Valid for two (2) years and is not renewable.
- **Consultant Specialist Permit** - District requested. Applicants need to be working toward completing a bachelor's degree, if they don't already hold one. Districts attest the individual is uniquely qualified to be hired in the role. Valid for one (1) year and can be applied for annually.

### **PROPOSED RULE CHANGES**

At their June 2023 meeting the Professional Teaching Standards Board voted to start the rules promulgation for the following items. Notice of public comment will be forthcoming after the Governor's review and approval to start the process.

- Creation of Elementary Math Specialist, and Hunter Education endorsements
- Eliminating the COVID-EA, and creation of an Alternative Teaching Certificate EA for non-IHE based alt route prep programs
- Creation of an Apprentice Permit for apprentices working in partnered districts



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### **OTHER PTSB TOPICS**

The Board heard from Child Development Center Directors, UW, and CWC faculty about issues related to Early Childhood Special Education endorsements. PTSB staff will facilitate further discussions among these entities to look for ways to accommodate needs this fall.

The Board also heard from the Wyoming School Counselors Association, the Wyoming School Psychologists Association, and received written communication from School Social Workers about training and preparation for these roles, demands for these roles across the state, similarities and differences in the services each provide, and concerns about how the roles are sometimes used in ways that do not align with their training.

### **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.

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

### **PTSB PRESENTATIONS**

I appreciate the invitations and opportunities to present to a variety of professional organizations. This summer I will be presenting at the Wyoming School-University Partnership meeting, and the Wyoming Computer Science Education Conference. Please contact me if your association or district would like a presentation, or to ask questions and get more information about PTSB.

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

Summer is a busy time for the PTSB office. We are processing applications from all new educator graduates, and those educators moving to Wyoming, along with renewals. It is currently taking about 4 weeks for DCI to process fingerprints and background checks. PTSB is currently processing applications between 6-8 weeks from the date the application is received in our office. Please just leave **one** voicemail or **one** email with your questions, and we will respond! Providing high quality, timely customer service is a core value of this agency.

### **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS**

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on **Monday, October 16, 2023.**





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### 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 improving **dialogue**, implementing changes **proactively**, being a **resource**, and **planning 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!

*Brandon N O'Connell*