



## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS BOARD

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Date: August 2023

From: Brendan O'Connor, PTSB Executive Director

RE: Director's Memo

I hope you had some time this summer to take a break, and had a chance to relax and re-energize! The school year is rapidly approaching and I know everyone is feeling the stressors and pressures that accompany this time of year.

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

The three PTSB Licensing Specialists have been diligently working throughout the summer to be sure your staff are properly licensed as quickly as possible. We are currently processing between 6-8 weeks from the date the application is received in our office. We have received over 2,000 applications since the start of May, and continue to receive dozens of applications daily.

In an effort to help the Licensing Specialists with their processing efficiency, I have dedicated the bulk of their days to be uninterrupted and solely devoted to processing applications. **The three Licensing Specialists will be available between 1:00pm - 4:00pm daily to respond to voicemails, and emails.**

If your district or staff have questions about the status of an application, please leave a voice message if calling – we get spammed with fake calls like everyone, and don't respond to calls with no message – or just send one email. Multiple emails and voicemails delay the response times for everyone.

### **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

A reminder that Computer Science courses need to be taught by educators holding a Computer Science endorsement. PTSB has approved six CS programs at UW and five of the seven community colleges. Districts can use Exception Authorization Option #2 - Program Completion to get candidates enrolled into one of these 15-18 credit programs (or from other institutions across the nation if we have information on the program).

Last year the Professional Teaching Standards Board approved the WDE Computer Science micro-credentials as a means to add the Computer Science endorsement. Secondary educators in the WDE Computer Science micro-credential pilot must complete the entire set of microcredentials and pass the Computer Science Praxis test to add the Computer Science endorsement. Educators in the Elementary CS micro-credentials do not need to pass the Praxis test. Exception Authorization Option #2 - Program Completion can be used by educators



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enrolled in the WDE Computer Science micro-credential programs. Elementary teachers teaching Computer Science in a “specials” setting need to hold the endorsement.

### SPECIAL EDUCATION LICENSURE

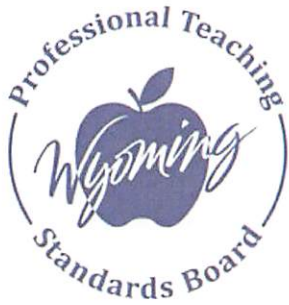
Last October the US Department of Education Office of Special Education sent out guidance about qualifications for Special Education educators (attached). This guidance notes that all special education educators must hold at least a bachelor’s degree. I understand that this poses additional challenges in hiring these already hard-to-staff areas. PTSB staff will continue to work with districts to seek solutions to hiring and licensing that will not pose any Federal compliance issues for districts.

### COACHING

Regarding another hard-to-staff area – Coaching. A reminder to have potential coaches submit their applications (and fingerprints if needed) as soon as possible before the season so that they may be paid for their work during the season. We’ve had some cases in the past few years with coaches sending in applications after their season concluded, and ending up just volunteering their time.

- **Transitional Coaching Permits: 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. 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 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.
  - Any licensed Athletic Trainer in Wyoming is eligible to provide Care & Prevention training. There are some who travel the state providing this training to districts. The Wyoming Coaches Association also provides this training during their annual Coaches Clinic in July.

PTSB staff continue to move all former Assistant Coach endorsement holders (Licensed educators) to the new Coach endorsement, and all former Assistant Coach Permit holders (non-educators) to the new Coach permit.



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### APPRENTICESHIP

Wyoming is one of 21 states to have a US Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship in Teaching. Laramie #1, Teton #1, and Fremont #24 are piloting this initiative, and the first cohort of apprentices will be starting this fall. PTSB and WDE staff have been working with these districts and educator preparation programs at UW, Western Governors University, and Valley City State University to ensure the candidates meet all requirements of the apprenticeship. Apprentices complete on-the-job training, defined competencies, 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.

### UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Monday, October 16, 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 continues to engage our stakeholders, 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. Cover*