

From: Cameron, Thomas
Sent: Thursday, September 17, 2015 3:40 PM
To: Stadick Smith, Mary
Subject: Certification Fees

To the State Board of Education

I am writing this to express opposition to the proposed certification fees increases. I suggest waiting to see what recommendations come from the Blue Ribbon Task Force regarding education issues such as funding, teacher shortage, etc. The proposed increases come at time when there are several education issues that have not been very positive. The South Dakota Retirement System is also proposing changes that adversely affect future educators. As a state we are trying to address issues of a teacher shortage and some of these changes, I believe, hinder that process.

I realize that the increases may seem nominal when teachers only have to renew their certificate every five years, there hasn't been an increase in several years, and that operating costs increase. Considering all that I still think it is bad timing. If the BRTF accomplishes their goals for education then a year from now would be a much better time to propose the increases.

Thank you for your consideration and the work you do for education in our state.

Tom Cameron, Supt.
White River School District
PO Box 273
White River, SD 57579
(605) 259-3311 Office
(605) 515-1030 Cell
(605) 259-3133 Fax

