

Public Comment
CTE Teacher Certification Administrative Rules

CTE Teacher Certification Exhibit 1

Date Submitted: November 10, 2015

Bev Meyer, Educator

As a high school principal in a small, rural, school located in an agricultural community, I cannot offer ag education in a face to face setting. Instead, students take this traditionally hands-on class, online. One of the purposes of CTE is to differentiate instruction for our students. Thus, the online format voids many project based learning opportunities. By adding flexibility in this certification, I will be able to certify either an already certified teacher or a local farmer to teach this class. This will not only add more credibility to our CTE programs but also improve community involvement in our school. Please support this certification update. Thank-you, Ms. Bev Myer

CTE Teacher Certification Exhibit 2

Date Submitted: November 12, 2015

Jessica Duerre, Educator

My name is Jessica Duerre and I am the Webster Area High School FACS Instructor. I recently graduated in May of 2015 from South Dakota State University with a major in Hospitality Management and minors in Business, Marketing, Management, and Economics. While I was working in the hospitality field, I was told of the opportunity to work within the same school I graduated high school from as the FACS Instructor. The Family and Consumer Science department has always been important to me and has shaped many of my favorite hobbies and life skills, allowing me to follow my heart in accepting the position as Webster Area's FACS Instructor. Throughout my teenage years, I was extremely active in 4-H, FCCLA, and other student organizations that take pride in the ability to use lessons about being a successful person in life and turning them into positive experiences. With these opportunities and taking FACS courses in middle/high school, I obtained a vast amount of knowledge that I find to be one of the reasons I chose to go to college in the Human Services Department. The Hospitality Management major and the Family and Consumer Sciences major align very closely in the SDSU course catalog. Students within these majors are required to take many of the same courses and have many of the same paths of focus. Classes such as Quantity Foods, Nutrition, and Restaurant Management are taught in both the FACS department and the Hospitality Department. These classes are the exact classes that I am currently teaching in my high school curriculum. I know that I am qualified to teach these classes, even though I have not obtained my teaching license yet. I plan to take the Praxis test in the spring semester. If I were required to take 15-18 credits per area of study in order to become certified, my schedule would become unreasonable. As a first year teacher, every day is a new adventure and I spend countless hours each week trying to lesson plan while keeping Department of Education standards in mind. I could easily become a certified teacher within one year, as long as I do not have to take 15-18 credits per cluster. Since I my teaching area over laps 3 clusters, that would be an additional 45-54 credits. The knowledge that I already have obtained has given me an abundance of opportunity to become the best teacher I can be. I am confident I can pass the Praxis test to demonstrate I am highly qualified in all areas. I have come to love my position within Webster Area High School, and I strive to be the best teacher I can be. Each day I put my best foot forward, and I can only hope that those efforts don't have to be lessened due to having to spend countless resources on credits that I feel I already have knowledge of.

CTE Teacher Certification Exhibit 3

Date Submitted: November 12, 2015

Sandy Stukel, Educator

The proposed changes to the CTE teacher certification rules would be of great benefit to online instructors for the DIAL Virtual School. Career and Technical Education instructors are getting more and more difficult to find in our state. In the past, we have struggled finding CTE instructors for the various clusters. This can make it very difficult to impossible for us to offer course offerings that SD students are wanting to experience. The certification revision will allow for alternatives to the certification process thereby allowing other means to obtain certification without watering down the rigor of the certification itself. We are finding that more and more students have an interest in CTE courses as this allows them the opportunity to see if they truly do have an interest in a various career pathway and cluster area while still in high school. They also receive a hands on aspect to learning that is different than what is offered in the traditional core content courses. Many students that are hands on learners find CTE courses to be very appealing, engaging, and relevant. In summary, I am in support of the CTE teacher certification rule changes.

CTE Teacher Certification Exhibit 4

Date Submitted: November 12, 2015

Coleen Keffeler, Cyle Miller & Pete Wilson, Educators

As career and technical education practitioners in South Dakota, we are writing to express concerns regarding the proposed revision of the CTE Teacher Certification process. Sturgis Brown High School has an extensive career and technical education program and has utilized both the traditional and alternative certification routes to fill CTE teacher vacancies. This included hiring individuals possessing a CTE degree as well as individuals possessing a teaching degree/certification in an academic area and documentation of 4,000 hours work experience in the CTE cluster as well as an individual with thirty---plus years of industry experience.

We agree that highly qualified individuals are essential to a quality educational program. However, some components of the CTE Certification Revision are cause for concern. Concerns are listed by certification route below.

1. CTE Degree Program: Will the Industrial Technology program include endorsements/certification in the Architecture & Construction, Manufacturing, and Transportation clusters? Is this degree program available in South Dakota?
2. Other Education Degree Program: The “or” between the two options needs to be more distinct and clear.
 - a. The career cluster endorsement stresses cluster---specific coursework. Has the coursework been identified for each cluster? Can an individual be teaching while working toward the endorsement? If an applicant has verified work experience, can that be utilized in place of coursework?
 - b. The career pathway endorsement does allow for validated work experience; however, it limits the applicant to a pathway endorsement instead of the full career cluster endorsement, which limits what the individual may teach thereby decreasing their value to the school.

- c. The number of credits required may be cost prohibitive for many applicants. Have the courses been identified? When and where will the courses be offered?
- 3. Non---Education Degree or Postsecondary Diploma:
 - a. The 27–30 credits of coursework may be cost prohibitive for many applicants. Have the cluster specific courses been identified? When and where will the courses be offered?
 - b. The cost and time involved in earning the coursework credits could be a deterrent for people from industry in their decision to give back to the profession by teaching.
 - c. Will individual transcripts be reviewed to identify cluster---specific coursework thus decreasing the number of coursework credits required?
- 4. Non---Education Degree or Postsecondary Diploma or Industry Experience
 - a. Who selects the mentor for the internship? The mentor should be a CTE teacher within the local school district.
 - b. What does the mentored internship entail? Please be clear and concise in the documentation/activities required.
 - c. The CTE Specialist Permit limits the applicant to a career pathway within a career cluster. This permit limits the courses the applicant can teach. For example, the Manufacturing Cluster includes courses in welding and machining. Will the applicant be authorized to teach courses in both pathways?

To make the CTE Teaching Profession attractive to applicants seeking a non---traditional route to certification, the process must be clear and concise. Please identify the courses fitting the requirements by course title and number as well as how and where the courses will be offered.

For a society to succeed, it must pass knowledge on to the next generation. This requires a craftsman with a command of a subject and the ability to transfer that knowledge through demonstration and explanation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important issue.