

## **Missouri NEA MACCE Report**

*Notes from the December 5, 2016, meeting of the  
Missouri Advisory Council for Certification of Educators  
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

### **Districts notified of staff arrests in 24 hours or less**

The latest component of the Missouri Highway Patrol background checks for school employees became operational in July 2016. Rap Back provides real time feedback for mandated criminal background checks and employee arrests. School districts are automatically notified within 24 hours of an employee's arrest. Background checks are often completed within 15 minutes.

### **Your comments needed on proposed beginning teacher assistance program rule**

Completing a BTAP is required for new teachers to advance from Initial Certification to Career Continuous Certification. The proposed rule states a BTAP is sponsored by a Missouri teacher education program and shall be provided by an education association, RPDC/or school district. The program shall include, but not limited to, an overview of these topics: classroom environment; student engagement and motivation; professional communication; and educator-related law.

**Your comments needed!** Please request that DESE remove the requirement for BTAP to include a plan of professional growth for the first two years of teaching. A professional growth plan is already a required component of district mentoring programs. Holders of the initial certificate to teach in Missouri have four years to attend the BTAP, so those who attend a BTAP after their first two years of teaching cannot meet this requirement. Please email your comments on the BTAP rule to [educatorquality@dese.mo.gov](mailto:educatorquality@dese.mo.gov) before Dec. 30.

The new rule also requires the BTAP to provide on-going support during the initial contract year, which is a problem because many new teachers do not attend a BTAP during their first year of teaching. Missouri NEA currently provides ongoing support through the NEA edCommunities Classroom Management online group, and our BTAP is sponsored by Maryville University.

### **Changes to speech language pathologist certification proposed**

Currently, speech language pathologists are granted a Missouri teaching license based solely on achieving the Missouri Board of Registration for the Healing Arts SLP credential. SLPs are able to work in schools without the teaching certificate. Maintaining this double certification causes confusion, serves no quality control purpose, and often results in SLPs practicing without a license when their board of healing arts certification expires. DESE proposes discontinuing this dual certification for NEW speech language pathologists.

Prior to the MACCE meeting, Missouri NEA coordinated collecting information and held a conference call between the Missouri SLP organization, DESE, and PSRS. This change will have NO effect on currently certified SLPs. If adopted, all future SLPs will not have a certificate from DESE, and will be in the PEERs retirement system and social security. Many SLPs also do work covered by social security during their career, and as PEERs members, they will not be subject to the GPO-WEP reduction in their social security benefits. Seventy percent of comments received by DESE had to do with PSRS issues, twelve per cent asked to extend the timeline for the rule change to allow for additional discussion and education and eight per cent wanted to create a new SLP certification.

Missouri NEA members on MACCE led the discussion to recommend extending the implementation to August 1, 2018 to give districts time to work out issues with collective bargaining agreements. After much discussion, MACCE recommended delaying the elimination of dual certification of SLP's until August 1, 2018.

## **Educator Preparation Program updates**

Annual Performance Reports for Missouri educator preparation programs (EPPs) will become public in February 2017, with decisions made about continuing accreditation in 2018-2019. DESE and Missouri EPPs have worked together since 2013 to develop details of the APR system for EPPs.

By August 1, 2017, all teacher candidates must meet the certification requirements established by the Missouri State Board of Education in 2014. Updated competencies align with the Missouri Model Educator Standards, quality indicators, and assessments. Educator Preparation Programs are currently submitting updated matrixes for all certificated programs to show where required competencies are included in students' program of study. A separate matrix must be submitted by EPP's for each certification program.

## **Alternative Routes to Certification**

Margery Tanner updated MACCE on the different alternative certification routes in Missouri. Candidates in all of these routes must meet the minimum grade point average requirement of 2.75 over all and 3.0 in their content area.

- Temporary Certification is a one-year certification that can be renewed for up to four years. One must have a degree in their content area and be employed in a Missouri school district.
- ABCTE offers alternative certification in many content areas. The Missouri General Assembly passed a law in 2003 requiring DESE to accept ABCTE for certification. It is accepted in eleven states. Candidates must have a bachelor's degree, but it doesn't have to be in the area of certification. Candidates complete a series of online exercises and pass the ABCTE exam, and must have 60 hours of classroom experience that can be substituting, or 90 hours for elementary certification. The ABCTE certification can be completed in twelve months at a cost of \$1800-\$2,000.
- Teach for America works with urban school districts. They operate in charter and public schools in Kansas City and St. Louis. Participants are required to have a degree in their content area. They receive training over the summer and receive a two-year provisional certificate. In order to receive an initial certificate to teach, individuals must complete an educator preparation program through a university, two years of mentoring, pass assessments, and teach for two years.
- Doctoral Route was approved in 1990 by the state legislature. Individuals must pass a professional knowledge exam and can then apply for certification in their content area.

## **In other business MACCE:**

- Created a study group composed of preK-12 and higher education representatives to review certification requirements for school psychological examiners. Their first meeting is scheduled for January 19 in Jefferson City.
- Heard update on Missouri Leadership Development System
- Heard updates about the Missouri Educator Gateway Assessments: MoGEA scores for 2016-2017, Missouri Content Assessments, and Missouri Performance Assessments
- Heard DESE will review temporary authorization certification for school counselors after full implementation of new educator certification requirements in 2017. MACCE recommended TAC for counselors be discontinued in 2014, but DESE did not take action.

Respectively Submitted,

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