

Missouri NEA MACCE Report

*Notes from the September 9, 2019 meeting of the
Missouri Advisory Council of Certification for Educators
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

MNEA member Jacqueline McGill was elected MACCE Chairperson for 2019-2020. Additional MNEA MACCE representatives present: Kathy Steinhoff, Kyla Ward, Jenna Adkins, and Allison O'Very.

Clinical experience requirements for teacher assistants debated

MACCE members debated and recommended language regarding the interpretation of a statutory rule regarding clinical experiences. The traditional student teacher experience is a 16-week placement. This is a huge barrier for paraprofessionals. Districts often want to target successful paraprofessionals to become certified teachers as part of district Grow Your Own programs. The statute under discussion states "...pre-service teacher education students who have been employed for at least two years as teacher assistants to utilize their teacher assistant experience to bypass the practice teaching evaluation and observation process..." The committee discussed the ambiguity of "aide" and "paraprofessional" between districts and the wide-ranging differences between job responsibilities and classroom responsibilities.

DESE rule under consideration:

- Two (2) years of experience as a teacher assistant;
- Experience as a teacher assistant must be concurrent with the student's participation in the educator preparation program, and in the same content area and grade range for which the student is seeking certification;
- The student shall have conducted teaching activities comparable to those required for other pre-service education students in conventional student teaching placements and demonstrated similar competencies; and
- The teacher with whom the student served must be a qualified cooperating teacher.

MACCE members suggested adding this definition of teacher assistant:

An individual who has served as an assistant **or paraprofessional** with teaching responsibilities comparable to a certificated teacher in a public school or accredited nonpublic school setting.

Changes in school counselor certificate recommended

Currently school counselors are certified for K-6 or 7-12. These are problematic at the middle school level. The school counselor association and other state groups support changing the school counselor certificate to K-12. The new certificate will be a teaching certificate with an emphasis on counselling. It will require 200 qualifying hours at the elementary or secondary level with an additional 100 hours in an area of emphasis. MACCE members approved the change for future applicants.

New secondary computer science certificate required in 2020

DESE now offers certification to teach secondary computer science. This certification is an add-on certificate, which means individuals must hold teaching certification in another secondary area before they can obtain a computer science certification. There are three ways to meet new certification requirements and obtain a secondary computer science certification:

- Hold a degree in computer science (or related subject);
- Complete a DESE-approved computer science training program such as Project Lead the Way or Code.org; **OR**
- Pass the Missouri Content Assessment for computer science, #315.

The requirement for computer science certification was enacted in state statute and takes effect in 2020 with no grandfather clause. **Computer science teachers at the secondary level will need to**

meet requirements of the new rule and apply for the computer science certification before the 2020 school year. Apply online at <https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification> when you meet one of the three options listed.

Teachers of computer science in elementary schools are required to hold any current certificate for the grade level(s) in which they are teaching. They do not have to obtain a computer science certification.

Certification rule changes now in effect

- **Speech Language Pathologist**

This certificate is no longer issued. Going forward, SLPs must hold an SLP license issued by the Board of Healing Arts. The change does not affect individuals who currently hold a SLP certification from DESE, who must also maintain their Board of Healing Arts certification.

- **Substitute**

Individuals must complete one hour of professional development annually to renew this certification. Semester hours must be completed through a regionally accredited institution in order to meet the 60 credit hour requirement to obtain a substitute certification.

- **Unified Sciences**

Unified Science and General Science 9-12 certificates are no longer being issued. Science certificates may now be used to teach any level science course in the certificate area and the introductory course in other science areas.

- **Administrator**

The proposed new name is School Leader K-12 and will replace Principal K-8, 5-9, 7-12. The new certification increases the required years of teaching experience from two to three years, and updates field and clinical experiences. The new certification aligns with the Missouri Leadership Development System.

- **Temporary Authorization Certificate**

The temporary certificate is a one-year certificate for individuals with other degrees working toward certification. The proposed changes align the required coursework with current educator preparation standards. To align with requirements for teacher candidates from regular educator preparation programs, GPA requirements were raised and required assessments were updated. The number of temporary certifications are increasing, primarily in Special Education.

Assessment Updates

Computer science, administrator, and social science content assessments have been updated. The MEES (Missouri Educator Evaluation System) passing score for school counselors is set at 25, and 42 for teachers. MEES is the required performance assessment scored by the educator preparation program. See more at <https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/educator-preparation/mees-training>

The next MACCE meeting will be on December 2, 2019. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Rebeka McIntosh or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236. Details of MACCE agenda items can be found at: <https://dese.mo.gov/educator-quality/certification/macce-news-and-updates>

Respectfully submitted,
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