January 25, 2022

Below are highlights from the State Board of Education’s January 24, 2022 Regular meeting and Special Meeting. You can watch both meetings on YouTube.

**Substitute and Emergency Substitute Certificates**

Schools are struggling to find substitute teachers, which is causing learning disruptions for students and placing pressure on teachers and administrators. To help address this, the Rural Arizona Schools Coalition (RASC) and the Arizona School Administrators Association (ASA) proposed modifications to the substitute certificate and emergency substitute certificate. The Arizona Department of Education's Certification Desk and Board staff worked with RASC and ASA to present changes to the Board's Certification Advisory Committee on December 7, 2021. The Committee unanimously approved changes to the rule, which the Board adopted as part of emergency rulemaking procedures on January 24th. The rules:

- Remove the 120-day teaching limitation on the substitute certificate allowing substitute teachers to teach as long as is necessary until a contract teacher is hired
  - The limitation and exception are burdensome and unnecessary in light of schools’ difficulties finding teachers and substitutes.
- For the emergency substitute certificate:
  - Issues the certificate for two years rather than one year to reduce the administrative burden on the emergency substitute and the school. This means emergency substitute teachers do not have to return to receive a new certification every year, schools do not have to verify there is an emergency every year and emergency substitutes have more time to complete the in-service/coursework required to have the certificate reissued.
  - Modifies the current limitation from 120 days at the entire LEA to 120 days at one school to provide more flexibility to schools to move emergency substitutes throughout the LEA. This limitation may be waived if the school is unable to hire a qualified candidate.
  - Recommends the courses/in-service hours required to reissue the emergency substitute certificate include classroom management and ethics to protect student safety

Candidates interested in applying for the substitute or emergency substitute certificate may apply with the Arizona Department of Education’s Certification unit: [https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/educator-certification-career](https://www.azed.gov/educator-certification/educator-certification-career).

**Educator Discipline**

The Board released the 2021 Enforcement Action Report, which is an annual report on educator discipline actions taken by the Board. The Report, which can be found [here](https://www.azed.gov/), includes valuable insights into discipline trends that both schools and state leaders should be aware of.
The Report recommends continued cooperation with schools administrators and human resource directors to ensure reports of misconduct are made to the appropriate authorities and to pursue policies and practices to prevent misconduct from occurring in the first place.

**A-F Accountability College and Career Readiness Index (CCRI)**

At the recommendation of the Board’s advisory committees, the Board adopted the CCRI spreadsheets and criteria for high school A-F Accountability for the 2021-2022 school year. The Arizona Department of Education’s Accountability Team will release the spreadsheet to schools. Questions on the spreadsheet can be directed to their unit: [https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research](https://www.azed.gov/accountability-research).

**Meeting Schedule**

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022. The [2022 Meeting Schedule is available online.](#)