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To: District Superintendents
Charter School Sponsors

From: Jhone M. Ebert, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Date: February 3, 2022

Re: Guidance Memo #22-03: Implementation of Senate Bill 352 (2021)

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to districts and charter schools to ensure fidelity in the implementation of SB 352 (2021), which supports accelerated pathways for educator and school psychology candidates to complete student teaching and internship requirements for licensure.

The Nevada Department of Education (NDE) is in the process of writing draft regulatory language for potential adoption by the Commission on Professional Standards defining accelerated student teaching in accordance with SB 352. For additional details, please refer to the text of [Senate Bill 352](#).

Summary of Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2021)

The passage of [SB 352](#) during the 81st Legislative Session amended Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 391.019 and requires the Commission on Professional Standards to adopt regulations that:

1. Allow a person who is currently employed as a paraprofessional and enrolled in an educator preparation program to complete an accelerated program of student teaching in the area in which the person is currently employed as a paraprofessional;
2. Require the Nevada Department of Education (NDE) to accept a student teaching experience completed in another state or a foreign country if the Department determines that experience substantially fulfills the requirements of a program of student teaching in Nevada; and
3. Allow a person who is currently employed by a public school to provide support or other services relating to school psychology to simultaneously complete a program of internship in psychology.

This memo relates to the implementation of numbers (1) and (3) above.

Purpose and Guidance

Employers should ensure understanding among relevant staff, including human resources staff and district and school administrators, of how this statute can be leveraged to address long-term vacancies.

Employers must support paraprofessionals completing an educator preparation program as follows:

- Allow a person employed as a paraprofessional to complete a program of student teaching
- Allow a paraprofessional to increase instruction-related responsibilities as outlined in their education preparation program
- Provide for a student teaching experience to be carried out within the school building in the same or similar area in which the person is employed and seeking licensure
- Permit a paraprofessional to complete student teaching while remaining employed as a paraprofessional.

Employers must support licensed school psychologist candidates as follows:

- Allow a person who is employed by a public school to provide support or other services relating to school psychology to complete a program of internship in school psychology while remaining employed in such a position
- Allow a school psychology paraprofessional to accumulate clock hours as a school psychologist intern while performing school psychology internship-related activities as required by his/her school psychologist program

Suggested best practices:

- Work with educator preparation program providers to assign the paraprofessional to a high-quality mentor teacher
- Create a schedule that allows for other current paraprofessionals or a substitute to switch duties of the employee during the times that the employee is completing student teaching requirements
- Create a schedule that allows the student teaching or school psychology internship to be completed with integrity and within the timeframe set forth by the educator preparation program provider

Timeline for Implementation

Districts and charter schools must adopt policies to support paraprofessionals in completing student teaching and school psychology staff in completing internships in alignment with the intent of SB 352. Such policies must be approved by the district superintendent, board of trustees, or governing body and submitted to NDE via email to Annabel Sanchez (edprep@doe.nv.gov) by May 2, 2022.

Contact

Please contact Education Programs Professional Anabel Sanchez at edprep@doe.nv.gov or (702) 486-6489 with any questions.