

Report of the Teacher Education and School Accreditation Committee (TESAC)

Fran Marymee, Hastings, Chair

The Teacher Education and School Accreditation Committee (TESAC) represents NSEA members on the Nebraska Council on Teacher Education (NCTE). NCTE is an advisory committee to the Nebraska State Board of Education, and the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). Doreen Jankovich, a member of the Omaha Education Association, NSEA and NEA, is the current president of NCTE. Alan Bone, Westside Education Association, is chair of a standing NCTE committee, as is Donna Moss of the Hastings Education Association.

TESAC monitors and works for improvements in Educator Preparation programs, Standards of School Accreditation and Standards for Educator Preparation, in the State of Nebraska. It is the advocate for quality education in Nebraska. Nebraska Department of Education Rules 20, 21, 24 and 25 continue to be reviewed every year as needed.

As active members of the NCTE, we have studied Supply and Demand Reports for Administrators and Teachers; State Education Report Cards; Reform of Educator Preparation; Educator Effectiveness; Educator Standards; and have participated in State and NCATE/CAPE accreditation at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

NCTE has reorganized the membership and committee structure to become more efficient in reviewing Rule 24 endorsement standards and guidelines. The number and configuration of the membership has also been reduced.

Members of TESAC are divided into three committees on NCTE. These committees reviewed issues as listed below. All committees have been involved in helping rewrite any rules brought to them into performance-based language. The three Standing Committees reviewed the following:

- Rule 24 endorsements and guidelines for all Special Education areas
- Rule 24 endorsements and guidelines for Early Childhood Education
- Rule 24 endorsements and guidelines for English Language Arts, Secondary English, Journalism and Media Education, Reading and Writing, Speech, Theatre, and Reading Specialist.
- Rule 20 changes for accreditation of Educator Preparation Institutions
- Rule 21 changes for Certification of Educators

Future Rule 24 endorsements and guidelines to be reviewed include the following:

- Middle Grades
- Art and General Art
- Music, Instrumental Music, and Vocal Music

NSEA members on the NCTE will recommend approval or non-approval of all 16 Educator Preparation Institution programs to the State Board of Education in June after reviewing accreditation reports from all programs. Members will also approve the Nebraska Wesleyan national accreditation report from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education, as well as the state approval report.

NSEA members have reviewed Rule 23 and made recommended changes for the new Praxis I and Praxis II content tests that will become effective in September 2015.

NCATE has now become CAEP, combining the National Council on Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC). The Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) is the only federally recognized body for national accreditation of preparation programs. Nebraska officials will sign a new State Partnership Agreement with CAEP and future accreditation will be under the CAEP Standards.

Our state representatives will need to be trained in the new standards and continue their service on accreditation teams at Nebraska institutions.