

Report of the Teacher Education and School Accreditation Committee (TESAC) to NSEA's 2015 Delegate Assembly

By Travis Coe, Gothenburg Education Association, 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, is the current president of NCTE. Donna Moss of the Hastings Education is chair of standing committee "C" and Diana Casey of the Omaha Education Association is vice chair of standing committee "A."

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 visits.

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 24 endorsements and guidelines for Art, Music, Vocal Music, and Middle Level Education.
- Rule 20 changes for accreditation of Educator Preparation Institutions
- Rule 21 changes for Certification of Educators

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.

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 will be signing 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.