

Report of the TESAC Committee
Submitted by Jordan Koch, Papillion-LaVista Education Association

The Teacher Education and School Accreditation Committee is the group of teachers who represent NSEA on the Nebraska Council of Teacher Education. NCTE is an advisory committee of teachers, higher education representatives and Nebraska Department of Education staff that report to the Nebraska State Board of Education.

TESAC leadership includes Jordan Koch of Papillion as chair, Michelle Tebbe of Grand Island as vice chair and Devin Garcia of Diller as secretary. A few TESAC members also hold leadership positions in NCTE: Diana Casey of Omaha is the president of NCTE, Travis Coe of Crete is secretary of Committee A, Caroline Rice of Bellevue is vice chair of Committee B and Michelle Tebbe of Grand Island is secretary of Committee C.

TESAC monitors and advocates for improvements of educator preparation programs, standards for school accreditation and teacher preparation program standards. Members analyze changes to Rule 20, 21, 23, 24 and 25 as they are updated.

At our January meeting, revisions to the World Language and School Librarian endorsements were reviewed in committee. Diana Casey served on the ad hoc committee for School Librarian endorsements. World Language included some positive changes to expand the program and get more candidates into the classroom. Both were moved to final reading.

The March TESAC and NCTE meeting included looking at both the Elementary Education and Principal endorsement revisions.

Other than endorsement revisions, the most impactful thing that the committee looked at is Rule 20 revisions. Rule 20 sets the standards for teacher preparation programs in Nebraska. NDE wanted to make a total revamp, so they brought in Dr. David Steiner, researcher and director of the Institute of Education Policy at Johns Hopkins University. He presented research-based recommendations and all NCTE members got to provide feedback. Recommendations will continue to be discussed and the process will continue into the next year.

Because of Covid-19, all TESAC meetings have been via Zoom. The committee hopes to get back together as a group soon. TESAC is continually looking forward to impact State Board policy.