Agenda Topic: Proposed Rules – Part 25 (Certification)

Materials: Recommended Amendments

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Purpose of Agenda Item

To present the proposed amendments for the Board’s initial review and secure authorization to distribute them for public comment.

Expected Outcome of Agenda Item

A motion authorizing the staff to publish the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment.

Background Information

These amendments serve several different purposes and include some technical updating as well.

- New Sections 25.85, 25.86, 25.87, and 25.147 open up avenues to certification in foreign languages where it is not now available. Depending upon an individual’s existing teaching preparation and credentials, he or she can receive new or additional endorsements in a specified language or can receive a temporary foreign language certificate. Approval of institutions’ preparation programs will no longer be specific to individual languages, enabling them to entitle individuals in various languages depending upon the needs of their students and the languages in which they are proficient.

- The changes in Sections 25.620 and 26.630 will enable individuals who are currently serving on transitional bilingual certificates to receive credit for student teaching and/or pre-student teaching clinical experiences while they are being paid for teaching. These amendments will promote completion of approved programs by bilingual teachers because they will no longer be forced to give up
paid employment in order to complete the clinical requirements for initial certification.

- The revisions to Sections 25.20, 25.30, 25.40, and 25.80 correct the date (to July 1, 2004) as of which the various tests of subject matter knowledge will be based upon the applicable standards in Parts 26 and 27 and acknowledge the “assessment of professional teaching” that will be required as of July 2003. This is the assessment that will be based upon the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards as well as the technology and language arts standards for all teachers.

- The amendment to Section 25.135 will rectify an inadvertent omission of existing text that occurred the last time this Section was amended, and the table of contents to the Part must be updated to reflect several other recent amendments.

These amendments were discussed with the State Teacher Certification Board at its March meeting, and the STCB recommends them to the State Board of Education.

**Analysis and Implications for Policy, Budget, Legislative Action, and Communications**

*Policy Implications:* Both major aspects of this rulemaking will remove barriers to certification in areas where qualified teachers are needed.

*Budget Implications:* This rulemaking has no budgetary implications for the agency.

*Legislative Action:* None needed.

*Communications:* Please see “Next Steps” below.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

Direct the dissemination of the proposed amendments for public comment.

**Next Steps**

With the Board’s authorization, staff will submit the proposed amendments to the Administrative Code Division for publication in the Illinois Register to elicit public comment. Additional means such as the Superintendent’s Bulletin will also be used to inform interested parties of the opportunity to comment on this rulemaking.