TO: Illinois State Board of Education
FROM: Robert E. Schiller, Superintendent
       Christopher Koch, Director
       Respicio Vazquez, General Counsel

Agenda Topic: Action Item: Rules for Initial Review – Part 25 (Certification)

Materials: Recommended Amendments

Staff Contact(s): Christopher Koch
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Purpose of Agenda Item

To present the proposed amendments to Part 25 for initial review and secure the Board’s authorization to distribute them for public comment.

Expected Outcome(s) of Agenda Item

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

Background Information

The main group of changes in this set of amendments pertains to procedural matters connected with accreditation reviews leading to the approval of programs that prepare educators. These are found throughout Subpart C of the rules. Chief among them are incorporation of the 2002 version of the NCATE standards; a change in the role of the State Board staff member who serves with each review panel; and a change from “Fifth-Year Review” to “Accreditation Review” to accommodate the potential for a different review cycle in future.

The remaining proposed changes involve necessary updating.

- Section 25.67 is being changed to reflect the statute’s permission for an alternative program to convey knowledge and skills contained in an approved program offered by another institution (i.e., the alternative programs authorized under Section 21-5c of the School Code may be offered through institutions that do not have “regular” approved programs in the same area). The other revisions
to Section 25.67 reflect a change in the name of subject matter knowledge tests (to “content-area tests”) and a corrected cross-reference to the program approval requirements.

- The changes to Section 25.313 involve updating the cross-reference to Subpart C and changing the reference from “Fifth-Year Review to “Accreditation Review”.

- Section 25.442 (Illinois Teacher Corps Programs) is being amended to state the requirement for passage of the relevant assessment of professional teaching (APT) and to provide for receipt of a standard certificate rather than an initial certificate pursuant to P.A. 92-560.

- In Section 25.710, the discussion of “passing raw score” is being amended to accommodate scoring for constructed-response items. In addition, the list of tests that will make up the Illinois Certification Testing System beginning next year is being added.

- Section 25.728 (Use of Test Results by Institutions of Higher Education) is being revised to permit the use of the APT as a requirement for program completion.

- Finally, Appendix D is being amplified to reflect the availability of an additional certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

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

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

Policy Implications: The principal policy implication of this rulemaking is that it continues the practice of conforming the agency’s institutional review procedures to those of NCATE to the greatest degree possible.

Budget Implications: None.

Legislative Action: None needed.

Communication: Please see “Next Steps” below.

**Superintendent’s Recommendation**

Adopt the following motion:

- The State Board of Education hereby authorizes the solicitation of public comment on the proposed rulemaking for:
Certification (23 Illinois Administrative Code 25),

including publication of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register.

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 and the agency website, will also be used to inform interested parties of the opportunity to comment on this rulemaking.