

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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MACTE Minute for the Minnesota Board of Teaching Creation of a Two Tiered Licensing System December 11, 2015

This fall MACTE has shared MACTE minutes with the Board of Teaching regarding many important initiatives including the edTPA, Standards and Rules (the BOT Advisory Committee) and training for the Basic Skills. In the past MACTE has stood ready to engage the Board in discussion, serve on task forces, provide data and encourage our candidates for decision making purposes among many other opportunities to partner with the Board. While we use words like partner, collaborate, share and other verbs that signify a respectful working relationship, MACTE is very clear that we follow the Board's rules and procedures in order to allow our programs to be authorized to operate in Minnesota.

There are many discussions regarding Out-of-State prepared candidates looking to become licensed in Minnesota. These candidates have preparation in another state through non-Minnesota approved programs. Typically, the discussion revolves around how difficult it is for a candidate to receive licensure in Minnesota when they were not prepared in Minnesota. One of the hallmarks of a teacher prepared for licensure in Minnesota is the portability of the license and the demand for that teacher in school systems outside Minnesota (as well as the demand for them within Minnesota). The rules governing our programs have consistently produced some of the best prepared and most respected teachers in the country. Minnesota prepared teachers have had little difficulty leaving Minnesota, finding teaching jobs, and obtaining the necessary licensure for any state in which they reside.

MACTE supports high levels of accountability in the preparation and licensure of candidates in Minnesota. Therefore, we do not feel the Board, or any other body, should create a two tiered system allowing candidates from outside Minnesota to meet different standards. Our P-12 students deserve candidates who can show evidence of being thoroughly prepared with rigorous curriculum to meet the Minnesota Licensure Standards set by the Board of Teaching. Allowing candidates to have separate requirements based on where they completed their preparation puts Minnesota candidates at a disadvantage as they will often be held to a higher standard.

MACTE understands that the licensure rules in Minnesota have been developed by stakeholders in both the P-12 and post-secondary settings. The Board has allowed preparation rules to be developed by systems operating under the rules, as well as the institutions hiring and utilizing the teachers prepared in the system. The rules are rigorous and of high quality and not every candidate who would like to be a teacher in Minnesota is successful in obtaining a license. The same set of standards should be used to ensure P-12 students taught by candidates prepared Out-of-State do not receive less well prepared teachers.

Out-of-State candidates should show evidence of meeting the same standards as Minnesota prepared teachers. This does not always mean they need to retake courses (i.e. spend more time and money at our institutions), but they should be held accountable to demonstrate how they meet the same set of standards. This includes demonstrating they have met the content standards, pedagogy standards and the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examinations.

MACTE looks forward to continued discussions with the Board and other stakeholders regarding the rules and procedures used in Minnesota to ensure teachers have been rigorously prepared to meet the highest standards possible. While we do realize we are working under the authority of the Board, please know we are always ready to partner with the Board to ensure our P-12 students in Minnesota have the best teachers possible, teachers who are prepared to provide the highest quality education for which Minnesota is known.