

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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Date: June 8, 2018

To: Judge Barbara Case

Re: MACTE Comments on Proposed Permanent Rules Relating to Issuance, Renewal, and Validity of Teaching Licenses; Licensure via Portfolio; Tiered Licensure; and Technical Changes to Teaching

The Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) believes that every student deserves a highly qualified teacher who has completed a teacher preparation program specific to the content area and age range of their desired license. We recognize the troubling teacher shortages in many fields and regions of the state but believe that the changes in licensure rules is a permanent fix for a potentially temporary problem. We believe these changes in licensure rules will have long-lasting impact on the quality of the teaching force and the future achievement of the state's P-12 learners.

Positives of the Tiered Licensure Rules:

- 1) We approve the requirement for a minimum of a bachelor's degree for a one year Tier 1 license with renewability for up to 3 years. Prior to this rule, many schools hired "community experts" who held less than a bachelor's degree. As we stated above, we believe that each P-12 school in the state must employ highly qualified teachers who have completed a teacher preparation program specific to the content area and age range of their teaching assignment.
- 2) We approve the requirement for a mentorship program for those in Tiers 1-2. This mentorship is essential to provide the support classroom teachers with these qualifications will need to have a positive academic impact on P-12 student achievement. We value supporting teachers in classrooms throughout their careers.
- 3) We approve the allowance for issuance of a teaching license extending up to two grade levels for those from out of state preparation programs with content training and experience. This resolves one of the issues faced by those seeking MN licenses with out-of-state preparation.

MACTE's Concern:

- 1) Language in Tier 3 License - Lines 17.21 – 17.24 – Item #5 in Section C "has at least three years of experience teaching as the teacher of record aligned to the licensure area sought under a Tier 2 license and presents evidence of summative teacher evaluations that did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher on an improvement process aligned to the district's teacher development and evaluation plan" – This fifth of five ways an applicant can obtain a Tier 3 license after showing the required degrees or experience and passing of the pedagogy and content tests, removes any requirement of a board-approved conventional or alternative teacher prep program in this state or another. We recommend this section provide only the first 4 pathways and delete lines 17.21-17.24.

Finally, MACTE members want to point out that there is a connection between the high quality teacher preparation currently required for license holders in the state and the achievement of P-12 students and thus preparation for the workforce. We point to the ACT and NAEP test data in the state. The student achievement results shared below reflect on the well-qualified teachers who met the rigorous requirements set for Minnesota licensure. Lowering the requirements for those who will be teaching our students,

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especially those most in need of a well-prepared teacher (such as the high-needs areas of special education and teaching English as a second language), will not serve the needs of these students in ways that will help them to become productive citizens in our state's workforce.

2017 ACT Scores	English	Math	Reading	Science	Composite
National:	20.3	20.7	21.4	21.0	21.0
MN	20.4	21.5	21.8	21.6	21.5

Minnesota is one of 17 states with 100% student participation in taking the ACT, and scored the highest of all states with 100% student participation in 2017. Even with 100% of students taking the ACT, MN outranked the national averages in EVERY area. In the most recent NAEP data - again, MN outranks the national averages in EVERY area:

	Minnesota	National Average
Scale Score, Grade 4 Math	249	239
Scale Score, Grade 8 Math	294	282
Scale Score, Grade 4 Reading	225	220
Scale Score, Grade 8 Reading	268	261
Scale Score, Grade 4 Science	156	149
Scale Score, Grade 8 Science	158	147
Scale Score, Grade 4 Writing	156	153
Scale Score, Grade 8 Writing	156	154

