

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

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December 2019 MACTE Minute

The MACTE executive council and many MACTE members are eagerly awaiting Draft 7 of the unit rule. We understand that with the 30-day comment period if each individual institution voices their concern it will have a greater impact in demonstrating how widespread an issue may be. We appreciate the changes that were implemented in Draft 6 and appreciate the opportunity to work with you in meeting the needs of teacher educators across the state, but we still have concerns, many of which were voiced at the November meeting. Today we will add our concerns about school partnerships and the requirement to monitor and assess teacher educators every three years.

With regard to school partnerships (line 9.3 Standard 10, 2b) we have concerns about placing a practicum student or student-teacher with a Tier 2 cooperating teacher for mentoring. A Tier 2 teacher may have little preparation for their role, and thus may struggle to provide adequate mentoring to our candidates.

As we look at line 16.12, Standard 25 - The unit must monitor and assess each teacher educator at least once every three years using a teacher educator framework that models continuous improvement practices and includes observations and candidate feedback. We are concerned that we might run up against union contractual issues in some of our institutions that could make it difficult for some providers to meet these requirements. Additionally, we wonder whether a specific teacher educator framework assessment will be provided or recommended?

In the meantime, many of us are working on addressing the challenges presented by the shortage of licensed teachers throughout Minnesota. MACTE is interested in seeing what we might be able to accomplish if we were to collaborate to see what others are doing and what might be possible if we were to work together!

MACTE and the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership (MnEEP) will be co-sponsoring a statewide meeting on addressing the shortage of licensed teachers in rural MN. A meeting will be held at SMSU in Marshall on Tuesday, Jan. 7th, 2:00-4:30pm, in their Conference Center, with a snow date of Jan. 22nd, same time/location. A Zoom connection will be available for those who cannot attend in person. We hope to hear from a variety of education organizations regarding what they are currently doing to meet this need, and what more we might be able to do together. We plan to develop some action items that can be moved forward to the state legislature for the session in February.

If anyone is interested in registering to attend, either in person or online, registration information can be found on the MACTE webpage. A Zoom link will be forwarded out to those who register for online attendance. We plan to have a Google Drive folder where each group could add materials regarding their efforts in this area that could be shared with all participants. We already have 45 registered attendees!