



February 2022 Newsletter

Welcome to MACTE's newsletter. This monthly newsletter will be a hub for a variety of updates from the Minnesota state chapter, updates from The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE), and from the MACTE Executive Council on the state of teacher preparation in the state of Minnesota.

MACTE Updates

Winter MACTE Meeting Recap

On February 10 and 11, 2022, the Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (MACTE) convened the state-wide business meeting and collaboration. Thursday afternoon featured an update from PELSB, followed by role-alike and special interest group sessions. Friday morning's business meeting included updates from different state wide workgroups.

The conference then shifted from business meeting to collaborative learning centered on MACTE's 2022 focus area: **anti-bias education**. Dr. Keffrelyn Brown delivered the keynote address, *We Still Can't Wait: Addressing Race and Racism in Teacher Preparation*, in which she described the humanizing critical sociocultural knowledge that teachers need to center justice in their practices. Friday afternoon concluded the conference with breakout sessions focused on anti-bias education.

Spring MACTE Meeting returns to the Crowne Plaza Hotel

MACTE's [spring meeting will be held on April 7 and 8](#) at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Plymouth. Barring any new pandemic setbacks, we look forward to welcoming the MACTE community for an in-person conference for the first time since our February 2020 meeting. Sessions will once again focus on anti-bias education, as outlined in [MACTE's Due North Response Strategic Plan](#). [Proposals for breakout sessions focusing on anti-bias education are being accepted now through MACTE's website.](#)

[Submit a Proposal](#)

New PELSB Advisory Committee Opportunity

MACTE is working with PELSB to find volunteers for an advisory committee to make recommendations about Pathway 4 teacher educator qualifications.

The committee will discuss Pathway 4 qualifications, as they are anonymously presented, and provide general guidance around what satisfies the requirement of equivalency. The committee will not be making determinations or recommendations on whether individuals are qualified, but whether particular experience and qualifications would be sufficient to determine equivalency. This committee's recommendations will be shared with review teams to serve as guidance for unit and program reviews.

The committee will meet at least twice a year with possible 'urgent request' meetings. The term of this committee will be 2 years.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Cari Maguire at MACTEpres@gmail.com. We are looking for two members from each of MACTE's three caucuses, with a preference for individuals who served on the teacher educator qualification subcommittee last summer, or individuals who work closely with determining and tracking teacher educator qualifications at their institutions.

Nominate a Colleague (or yourself) to serve on the MACTE Executive Committee

It is the time of year when each caucus elects a member to serve on MEC. Many thanks to Sonya Vierstraete (MN State), Athena Novack (Private) and Stacy Ernst (UMN), whose terms are ending. MEC members serve for two years. You can [read more about the duties of the executive committee on MACTE's website](#).

In addition, this year we will need to elect a new treasurer, as Athena Novack's two terms are ending. We thank Athena for her four years of service and are grateful that she has offered to help train and support the new treasurer. Information about the duties of the treasurer can be found in the nomination form.

Nomination information:

- All caucuses - please [use this form to make a nomination for a new MEC member](#).
- All caucuses - [please use this form to nominate a treasurer](#).

Rhonda Bonnstetter is completing her year as past-president this spring, moving the presidential rotation to the private caucus, which will choose a president-elect to begin this spring. Thanks to Rhonda for her many years of

dedicated service to MACTE! Information about the role of the president elect can be found in the nomination form.

- Private caucus - please [use this form to nominate a President elect](#).

New PELSB Advisory Committee Opportunity

MACTE is working with PELSB to find volunteers for an advisory committee to make recommendations about Pathway 4 teacher educator qualifications.

The committee will discuss Pathway 4 qualifications, as they are anonymously presented, and provide general guidance around what satisfies the requirement of equivalency. The committee will not be making determinations or recommendations on whether individuals are qualified, but whether particular experience and qualifications would be sufficient to determine equivalency. This committee's recommendations will be shared with review teams to serve as guidance for unit and program reviews.

The committee will meet at least twice a year with possible 'urgent request' meetings. The term of this committee will be 2 years.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Cari Maguire at MACTEpres@gmail.com. We are looking for two members from each of MACTE's three caucuses, with a preference for individuals who served on the teacher educator qualification subcommittee last summer, or individuals who work closely with determining and tracking teacher educator qualifications at their institutions.

MACTE's Legislative Priorities and Call for Review

MACTE's legislative priorities for 2022 include: maintain high quality standards for teacher preparation; increase the diversity of Minnesota's teaching force through strategies to recruit, support, prepare, and retain teachers of color, including provisions and funding increases in the Increase Teachers of Color Act 2022; improve the retention of teachers, and support high quality research-based E12 instructional practices.

MACTE is currently watching the process of revisions of the PELSB's bill on education with regard to reading strategies, heritage language teachers, and performing and visual arts. We invite you to review those policies, per below:

- [Reading strategies - please review \(11.25\)](#)
- [Heritage language teachers - please review \(16.14\)](#)
- [Performing and visual arts - please review \(16.16\)](#)

In February, our legislative liaison Laura testified in the House Education Policy committee and the House Education Finance committee in support of [HF 3079](#),

the Increase Teachers of Color Act. The focus was on supporting policy changes to the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color (CUGMEC) grant program, eliminating content and pedagogy licensure exams for completers of MN preparation programs, and increasing funding significantly to both the CUGMEC and Grow Your Own grant programs.

Read the [full policy committee testimony here](#) and read the [full finance committee testimony here](#).

We are also watching HF 2950 which includes “short-call substitute teaching pilot” and a provision allowing teacher candidates to substitute teach for any teacher of record and have this “count” for student teaching. While we understand the severity of the shortage, we also want to protect the time student teachers have in their early development as teachers. Short-call substitute teaching during student teaching is something many providers have allowed during the pandemic to help schools during the crisis, but only in the classroom where they are the teacher candidate. We proposed the bill language be changed to have the parameter that the teacher candidate only be allowed to substitute teach for their cooperating teacher. This has not been adopted as of 2/24/22.

Finally, we are watching the reading bills that are coming up in both the house and the senate that focus on LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling). There is a large increase in funding of LETRS proposed and bipartisan support of this. Stay tuned to next month’s newsletter for more information on reading bills.

Teacher License Renewal

Southwest Minnesota State University is serving as the teacher re-licensure resource for MACTE members. Many thanks to St. Mary’s University, and especially to Katie Hubbard, who offered this service to MACTE for many years! The Teacher Licensure Leadership Team at Southwest Minnesota State University covers teacher preparation programs in the areas of E-12 mainstream classroom teaching, special education, literacy, and ESL. Teacher re-licensure applications will be evaluated triannually. Submission dates are: Oct 1, Feb 1 and May 1. Detailed information on the license renewal process can be found [here](#).

Current required areas for teacher licensure renewal are: Positive Behavioral Interventions, Reading Preparation, Accommodations, modifications, and adaption of curricula, materials, and strategies, Key Warning Signs for Early-Onset Mental Illnesses in Children and Adolescents, Suicide Prevention Training, Cultural Competency Training, Practices in meetings the varied needs of English learners, from young children to adults. Detailed requirements for renewal of professional licenses can be found [here](#).

MACTE Bylaw Changes Coming Soon

AACTE has adjusted its state affiliation agreements. Part of this process includes a request to include the following in our bylaws:

MACTE is an affiliate chapter of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE). AACTE and [MACTE] collaborate to strengthen their advocacy efforts, share experience and expertise, and expand their members' professional development opportunities. To this end, our Chapter's relationship with AACTE is a voluntary affiliation that allows us to advance our members' interests.

The MACTE executive committee has voted to approve this change. At our April business meetings, MACTE CIRs and IRs will be asked to vote in support of this addition to the bylaws. Please email MACTEpres@gamil.com if you have any concerns or questions about this proposed change.

Policy Work Group Update

Standards and Rules (February 2, 2022). Topics for this meeting with PELSB staff included: updates on current bills (e.g., PELSB bill w/Rep. Frazier, substitute shortage bill(s), parental review of curriculum, banning CRT); rule-making (R4615 SEP+; R4703 school counseling, Early Childhood Special Ed, Ethnic studies); the MnSPIRE survey; Upcoming grant cycle (CUGMEC and Teacher Mentorship w/Laura Dyer is PELSB's grant specialist); background check project; MDE's projects (teacher induction and mentorship grants, resources/certification for paraprofessionals, and bus driver training). We then discussed the low n issue with the Data-Summary Report (DSR) and with the CUGMEC grant reports that continue to be problematic for EPPs and PELSB. We discussed at length the edTPA variances and TPC review/processes that had occurred on February 1.

AACTE Updates

The [74th Annual Meeting](#) will be held March 4 – 6, 2022 in New Orleans, LA. AACTE members receive a member discount. Registration is still open. If you plan to go to New Orleans, please let Cari Maguire know at MACTEpres@gmail.com. We are organizing a MN gathering.

PELSB Updates

edTPA Spring 2022

On February 11, 2022, the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board met and approved all submitted discretionary variances related to edTPA, as requested, through June 30, 2022. This allows the preparation providers who sought a discretionary variance related to the edTPA to recommend initial licensure candidates without the completion of the edTPA this spring.

In contrast to a blanket [resolution](#), as was approved for the 2020-2021 academic year, individual preparation providers hoping to have the edTPA requirement waived must submit a [discretionary variance request](#) to Michelle Sandler for the Board to act if they have not yet already submitted a request.

COVID-19 Manual

The [COVID-19 Policy Manual](#) continues to reflect approved discretionary variances directly related to interruptions caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Discretionary Variance Approval Process

1. After being submitted to a Teacher Education Specialist, discretionary variances go to the Teacher Preparation Committee for review and a recommendation. The Teacher Preparation Committee agenda and meeting link may be found on [Meetings / Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board \(PELSB\) \(mn.gov\)](#).
2. The Teacher Preparation Committee will discuss and make recommendations. Sometimes, when requests are consistent with past Board actions, they will not be discussed but recommended for approval. Sometimes, the Teacher Preparation Committee may table to ask for additional information and make a decision at the subsequent meeting.
3. The Teacher Preparation Committee recommendation will appear on the Board's consent agenda, which is published on the Board website one week prior to the meeting: [Board Meeting Minutes / Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board \(PELSB\) \(mn.gov\)](#).
4. Following Board action, you will get an official notification.

Copyright © 2022 Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

Our mailing address is:

Minnesota Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
86 Pleasant St SE, 110 Wulling Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

[Add us to your address book](#)