Chapter 57: Educator Licensing

**Adoption Timeline:**
- Adoption notice including summary of comments to BPE for approval….May 13, 2022
- Final rule changes to SOS for notice in MAR…………….May 17, 2022
- MAR publication out…………………………………………May 27, 2022
- Effective Date of Rules………………………………………May 27, 2022

**May 13th Summary:**
- The Montana Board of Public Education (BPE) voted unanimously to adopt Superintendent Arntzen’s recommended changes to educator licensing.
- The process of revising the Chapter 57 educator licensing rules began in November of 2020.
- The licensing revisions will be submitted to the Secretary of State for publication in Montana Administrative Register on May 27th, at which point they will become effective.
- Flexible licensing revisions include:
  - Creating pathways to allow an educator to add additional endorsements to their license
  - Defining military dependent to include in licensure reciprocity for military spouses and dependents
  - Defining approved educator preparation program, as an umbrella term for traditional and alternate educator preparation programs
  - Returning the unusual cases authority to the State Superintendent
  - Keeping the words “credible source” as a rule to ensure members of the public can file a complaint about official misconduct
  - Expanding pathways to licensing beyond the Praxis including GPA, portfolio, and years of experience
  - Increasing access for expired licensees to reenter the classroom
  - Increasing career technical educators by accepting diverse degrees, allowing associate degrees, and work experience equivalencies
  - Allowing school counselors to pursue administrative licenses
  - Recognizing Class 1 professional licenses for nationally board-certified teachers

- The new licensure system, Teach MT, will reflect the new rules when it opens on June 1st
Chapter 58: Educator Preparation Program Standards

- Adoption Timeline
  - BPE approves rulemaking timeline……………………………………………………… November 17-19, 2021
  - BPE approves revised rulemaking timeline…………………………………………… March 10-11, 2022
  - Proposal notice to BPE for consideration……………………………………………….. May 12-13, 2022
  - BPE authorization to publish proposal notice, including public hearing date……….. July 14-15, 2022
  - Proposal notice to SOS for publication in MAR………………………………………… July 26, 2022
  - MAR publication of proposal notice……………………………………………………….. August 5, 2022
  - Public hearing date……………………………………………………………………………. late August, 2022
  - Final public comment deadline……………………………………………………………… September 2, 2022
  - Adoption notice to BPE for consideration, including comments and responses…… Sept 15-16, 2022
  - BPE authorization to publish adoption notice, including comments & responses…. Nov 17-18, 2022
  - Adoption notice to SOS for publication in MAR………………………………………… January 2023
  - MAR publication of adoption notice…………………………………………………………….. January 2023
  - Effective date of rules…………………………………………………………………………….. January 2023

- May 13th Summary:
  - The BPE reviewed Superintendent Arntzen’s recommended changes to Chapter 58: Professional Educator Preparation Program Standards, which included conceptual changes to:
    - Emphasize more diverse clinical experiences that enhance knowledge and skill development and can be objectively assessed during accreditation review.
    - Provide more flexibility for districts to place and provide clinical experiences for initial and advanced candidates with ties to the community.
    - Increase necessary supports and procedures within the initial and advanced programs from candidate recruitment to completion to increase overall candidate quality.
    - Provide consistent data and evaluation modes and methods to evaluate initial and advanced program quality and impact across the state.
    - Increase specifics regarding how data is collected and utilized for continuous improvement through a quality assurance system. Explicit inclusion of internal and external stakeholders in the quality assurance and continuous improvement process.
    - Focus on the importance of personalized instruction, student well-being, whole child supports, and family and community engagement.
    - Recognition and appreciation of tribal language and culture.
    - Add a new endorsement for English Language Development that is separate from World Language,
    - Rename the endorsement title from Students with Disabilities to Special Education
    - Update each individual endorsement for accuracy and relevancy.
    - Articulate which programs are considered advanced and the types of programs that fall outside of the accreditation process.
Chapter 55: Accreditation

OPI Link for Chapter 55 Taskforce and Negotiated Rule Making Committee Website

1. Quality School Taskforce:
The task force was provided initial recommendations for ARM Chapter 55 revisions to the superintendent of public instruction and the negotiated rule committee.

Task Force Work Items:
• Developed a field survey and summarized the results to inform recommendations.
• Drafted a Concept Memorandum (current rule, proposed red-lined rule, proposed conceptual changes, rationale) to capture initial recommendations to the Superintendent.

Conceptual Change Topics:
• Student growth—adding to proficiency for student performance standard
• Staffing ratios for library media specialists
• Graduation requirements and high school credits (Civics/Graduation, Economic and Financial Literacy)
• Basic Education Programs requirements for Elementary, Middle, and High School
• Staffing ratios for school counselors
• Mental wellness
• School Climate
• Postsecondary readiness
• Paraprofessional and substitute requirement
• Local control
• Family and Community Engagement
• Mentorship and Induction
• Accreditation process
• Categories of Accreditation
• Separate variance to standards for charter school

School Quality Task Force Members:
• Billi Taylor  Harrison K-12 Schools  District Superintendent
• Daniel Lee  University of Montana  Associate Professor
• David Pafford  Noxon Public Schools  Board Chairperson
• Emily Dean  MT School Board Assoc  Director of Advocacy
• Gary Lusin  Bozeman Public Schools  Board Chairperson
• Gayle Venturelli  Anaconda Public Schools  Board Chairperson
• Heather Hoyer  Great Falls Public Schools  Assistant Superintendent 7-12
Heather Jarrett  Reed Point Public Schools  District Superintendent
Janelle Beers  MT Small Schools Alliance  Executive Director
Jon Konen  Corvallis K-12 Schools  District Superintendent
Tony Warren  Turner Public Schools  District Superintendent and Principal

Ex-Officio Member:
McCall Flynn  Board of Public Education  Executive Director

Task Force Schedule:
• Last meeting, Thursday, May 19th (9 am to 4 pm)

2. Negotiated Rule Making Committee:

The Chapter 55 Negotiated Rule Making Committee will review and revise the recommendations from the Superintendent. The recommendations presented to the Board of Public Education must include an economic impact statement that the negotiated rulemaking committee prepares.

NRM Schedule:
• May 18, 2022, (Virtual) 3:30PM - 5:00PM
• May 25, 2022, (Virtual) 3:30PM - 5:00PM
• June 2022 (Days in Person, Helena) 8:00AM - 5:00PM
• June 23, 2022, (Virtual) 1:00PM - 3:00PM
• June 28, 2022, (Virtual) 1:00PM - 3:00PM

Negotiated Rule Making Committee Members:
Adrea Lawrence - University of Montana, Dean of College of Education
Chris Olszewski - Billings Public Schools, Curriculum Director
Christina Wekkin - Alberton Public Schools, Teacher
Corey Barron - Lodge Grass Schools, Principal, Tribal Representative
Craig Mueller - Havre Public Schools, District Superintendent
Curtis Smeby - Havre Public Schools, Trustee
Julie Murgel - Office of Public Instruction, Chief Operating Officer
Kelly Dey - Sidney Public Schools, Trustee
Kitty Logan - Swan Valley School, Trustee
Krystal Zentner - Bridger MT, Parent
Lisa Petersen - Westby K-12 Schools, Teacher
Michele Paine - Flathead High School, Principal
Patti Drake - Whitehall School District, District Clerk/Business Manager
Renee Schoening - MT School Counselor Association, Executive Director
Rhonda Long - Fergus County, County Superintendent
Ruth Uecker - Great Falls Public Schools, Assistant Superintendent K-6
Sharyl Allen - Office of Public Instruction, Deputy Superintendent
Stephen Schreibeis - Glendive Public Schools, District Superintendent
Sue Corrigan - Montana School Board Association, Kalispell Municipal Director
Susan Lake - Montana Taxpayer
Tara Hubing - Circle Schools K-12, Teacher

McCall Flynn - Board of Public Education, Executive Director - Ex-Officio Member

Geographic Representation of Committee Members

Montana Elementary and High School Districts

Legend:
- School District Trustees
- K-12 School Administrators
- K-12 Teachers and Counselors
- School Clerks/Business Officials
- School District Administrative Staff
- County Superintendents
- Parents
- Taxpayer
- EPP Representative
- Tribal Representative
- OPI Representative
- Association
- School Quality Task Force
3. Proposed Timeline for Revisions to ARM 55 (Shared as information item at BPE on 11/18/21)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research to ARM</th>
<th>Revisions to ARM</th>
<th>Negotiated Rule Making Committee</th>
<th>Board of Public Education</th>
<th>Education Interim Committee</th>
<th>Board of Public Education</th>
<th>Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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4. Communication:

- Meeting minutes, zoom links, and agendas, task force members can be found on top left of the OPI main webpage at [https://opi.mt.gov/](https://opi.mt.gov/)
  - Quality Task Force
  - Negotiated Rule Making Committee Members
- Stakeholders can attend the meetings via zoom.
- Public comments will be taken at each meeting. Written public comment may be submitted to tristen.belnap@mt.gov and will be shared with the taskforce members and recorded in the meeting minutes. The public comment period will be published on the agenda, with a three-minute limit per comment. Taskforce and Committee members will not respond or ask questions during public comment.