

Chapter 57 Research and Review Task Force Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 1, 2021

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The Counselor to Administrator subcommittee brought forward some suggested changes that were worked on throughout the week. The addition of “or school counseling” in section (c) of ARM 10.57.417 was generally agreed upon throughout the group and meeting.

The changes to section (d) included striking the language “three semester credits of college courses” and adding “Montana educator preparation program requirements including educator evaluation; and”. Discussion around this suggested change circulated around if it was necessary or not. Thoughts included the idea that specifying a Montana Educator Prep Program may create more barriers for out of state educators coming to the state to teach and the possible overlap of sections (b) and (d). Possibly the two sections could be simplified and merged to clarify the process.

Section (e) included a suggestion for the addition of language “for counselors, recommendation for the endorsement from the counselor’s immediate supervisor”. The addition of the option of an endorsement letter would allow a counselor to receive a recommendation and be sent directly to the OPI for consideration to license. The Task Force discussed if (e) needed to be moved further up in the ARM since its current location seemed late in the process. A consensus about the suggested changes was not reached and the Counselor to Administrator Subcommittee was tasked with revising their suggestions to bring back to the next meeting.

Reciprocity was the next topic to be discussed by the Task Force. The reciprocity report, created by the Region 17 comprehensive center in 2020 was reviewed by members of the task force and discussed. A table in the report showed the group what possible areas Montana could improve in. Those areas are coursework for out of state requirements, experience, assessments, advanced credentials, military spouses, alternative pathways, and endorsements.

Conversation revolved mostly around Military Spouses in reciprocity, endorsements, the National Board Certification for advanced credentials, and the recognition of out of state Educator Prep Programs. Discussion generally agreed that Montana has room for improvement in all these areas and more conversation is needed to come to consensus on how those changes should be done.

The PRAXIS exams were the last big topic of discussion. Overall, the group agreed that the PRAXIS is a topic that should be investigated further. The test is currently a large hurdle for out of state teachers when trying to come into Montana, especially if the individual is from overseas. There was discussion around making the PRAXIS the determining factor when deciding if the individual is eligible for licensure. Currently, the PRAXIS exam is not a program requirement in Universities, but a licensure requirement. Factors such as the individuals content GPA and an assessment given during student teaching are also taken into consideration when applying for licensure.