

Chapter 57 Research and Review Task Force Meeting Summary

Thursday, July 22, 2021

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

The Task Force began the meeting by jumping into the first reciprocity big bucket subcommittee around coursework. If an applicant is applying for a teaching license in the state of Montana, the applicant must provide information around the completed EPP and verification it was completed along with their student teaching. Verification is needed if the applicant followed an alternate pathway to obtain their license out of state. Alternate pathway is generally completed outside of the traditional university setting, although, there are some pathways that partner with universities, but there are no such partnerships currently in Montana.

The Task Force feels there needs to be additional clarification in the reciprocity report and ARM around when the required coursework is to be completed by an applicant. Current language seems to imply that the work needs to be completed prior to applying for a license, even though the rule is that it must be completed within three years of receiving the Class 5 provisional license. Additional clarity needs to be given around the effective date of the license and when these rules apply to applicants.

Discussion around the types of classes rule required was brought up. There are no requirements for the type of courses that must be taken to fulfill the 6 semester credits for a class 5 provisional license. The Task Force feels there could be some guidance given to direct the type of courses that should be taken. The other suggestion given is for a decision tree to be developed to give direction to applicants when and what they should do when applying from out of state.

The subcommittee around Experience gave their thoughts to the Task Force next. Throughout the ARMs, three years of teaching experience is used consistently until five years of experience for out of state applicants. Questions about how experience is collected by the OPI and what type of experience is accepted were asked. The applicant is sent a Verification of Employment Form, which is to be filled out by an employer and then sent back to the OPI. Experience is a minimum of a full year from an accredited K-12 school and the applicant must be fully licensed. Current rule does not allow supervised student teaching as experience.

Data around the number of applicants are from out of state, what they are applying for, on average the number of years of experience applicants have, and where they are employed after they receive a license will be gathered for the Task Force.

The suggestion was made that possibly changes could be made to incorporate a graduated licensure into rule. Rather than proving eligibility fully before becoming licensed, an applicant would complete tasks and courses over a set time. This would be a good amount of work, but may help ensure the quality and keep the educator current.