

ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification

The effect of the rules will be to eliminate unnecessary barriers to certification, clarify the requirements to obtain certification, ensure educators are adequately trained, provide additional flexibility for certification renewals, and clarify and update language.

The reason for adopting the proposed rules is to simplify educator certification.

Streamline the Certification Process

ARSD 24:28:02 – General Provisions

- Language cleanup
- Repeal inactive certificate

ARSD 24:28:08 – Education Specialist Certificate Requirements &

ARSD 24:28:27 Educator Specialist Endorsements

- Repeal unnecessary mentor teacher endorsement

ARSD 24:28:05 – Fees

- Restructure for clarification and ease of use
- Condense application choices to reduce confusion and selection of wrong applications
- Reduce time corresponding between educators/DOE for application selection

Changes to Educator Permits

ARSD 24:28:09 – Educator Permit Requirements

- Clarify what entity signs off for the Native American Lakota, Dakota, Nakota language and culture permit
- Add interim status for CTE permit to allow recognition that all requirements are not completed
- Clarify how endorsements can be added to a CTE permit as well as limitations for such
- Repeal unnecessary library science permit employer requirement
- Update one-year CTE instructor educator permit endorsements to reflect changes in names associated with updated national CTE framework

Changes to CTE Endorsements

Once certified, an educator can use any of the 5 options to gain CTE endorsements

- 1) An associate of applied science degree or higher;
- 2) Four thousand hours of validated work experience earned within the previous five calendar years;
- 3) Holds a national certification or state license;
- 4) Passes the state-designated content test; or
- 5) Completes state-designated coursework.

Changes to Alternative Certification

Overview associated with alternative routes

- Language cleanup
- Adjust to provide consistency across all alternative certification requirements
- Clarification of how to add endorsements within each chapter for ease of use and understanding
- Add interim status to allow recognition that all requirements are not completed

ARSD 24:28:10 – Alternative Preliminary

- Repeal since this has created confusion for districts and applicants because it is a document that does not allow the holder to serve as a teacher of record
- Eliminate the two-step process as individuals will apply using the initial educator application to select the alternative route being sought

Changes to Alternative Certification, Continued

ARSD 24:28:11 – General Education Alternative Certification and

ARSD 24:28:13 – Teach for America Alternative Certification

- Language cleanup
- Clarify how to add endorsements are moved within the chapter for ease, including CTE endorsements

ARSD 24:28:15 – Administrator Alternative Certification

- Language cleanup

ARSD 24:28:12 – CTE Alternative Certification

- Language cleanup
- Add language to allow both national certification and state license to qualify for certification/endorsements
- Adjust to mirror alternative certification requirements for all other alternative certification pathways
- Clarify how to add endorsements, including those beyond CTE, are moved within the chapter for ease

Changes to Certification Renewal

- Add options for renewal credits:
 - Instruction provided by applicant as part of an approved educator preparation program
 - Passage of state-designated content test towards adding an endorsement
- Condense rules for clarity and ease of use
- Simplify process for invalid certificate renewal requirements
- Note: Standard renewal process remains

Endorsement Changes

ARSD 24:28:18 – Endorsement General Provisions

- Language cleanup
- Repeal of alternative certification endorsements and restrictions of adding endorsements as they have been moved to the corresponding chapters for ease of use

Requirements to Add Endorsements Based on the Various Preparations

- **ARSD 24:28:19 – Early Childhood**
 - **ARSD 24:28:20 – Elementary Preparation**
 - **ARSD 24:28:21 – Secondary Preparation**
 - **ARSD 24:28:22 – CTE Preparation**
 - **ARSD 24:28:23 – K-12 Preparation**
 - **ARSD 24:28:24 – Special Education-Early Childhood**
 - **ARSD 24:28:25 – Special Education K-12**
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- Language cleanup which creates some repeals
 - Reorganize and group endorsements by requirements
 - Creates consistency and flexibility across preparation types

Wrap-Up

- Effort was made to carefully review the current rules and simplify them.
- Proposed package reflects the following:
 - Attempt to eliminate unnecessary barriers currently faced within the process of certification
 - Clarify the requirements to become certified
 - Provide additional flexibility for certification renewals
 - Clarify and update language, especially in connection to CTE and the language associated with the updated national framework.

Options for CTE Teacher Certification

- **CTE One-year Permit**
 - Developed during 2025 Legislative session
 - Mainly used to help meet needs for short-term positions or special programs; renewable annually
- **CTE Instructor Permit (Up to Five-year)**
 - Route to the classroom for individuals with technical expertise in high demand CTE areas associated with pathways
 - Expectations include college courses to develop education-related skills
- **CTE Alternative Certification**
 - Route to the classrooms for individuals with technical expertise and a bachelor's degree to earn a full teaching certificate in clusters and/or pathways
 - Expectations include college courses to develop education-related skills and state-designated pedagogy test
 - Allows access to add additional core content endorsements

Note: Already certified educators in other areas have options available to add CTE endorsements to their certificate.