



BOARD OF EDUCATION STANDARDS
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2026, 9:00 am (CT)

Department of Education – Virtual Meeting

Members Present:

Phyllis Heineman
Jean Moulton
Linda Olsen
Rich Meyer, Vice President
Steven Perkins, President
Greg Von Wald
Tonia Warzecha

DOE Joseph Graves, Amanda LaCroix, Jordan Cromwell, Laura Scheibe, Shannon
Staff: Malone, Kathryn Blaha, Kathy Riedy, Andrea Effling, Amy Miller, Shana Davis, Jane Cronin

Others: Members of the public

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, and Roll Call

The South Dakota Board of Education Standards (BOES) was called to order by President Perkins at approximately 9:00 a.m. CT.

A quorum of the board was present.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Heineman to adopt the June 22, 2026, agenda. Second by Moulton. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha, and Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Meyer to approve the May 4, 2026, minutes. Second by Moulton. Roll call vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha, and Perkins.

Public Comment: SDCL 1-25-1

No public comment.

Approval of the continuation of the Educator Preparation Program

Presented by Kathy Riedy. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Meyer to approve USD's educator preparation program as presented and end June, 2033. Second by Olsen. Roll call vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Von Wald, Meyer, Olsen, Warzecha, Moulton, Perkins.

Approval of Prenatal Human Growth and Development videos – pursuant to HB 1313

Presented by Shannon Malone. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Heineman to approve all videos as presented. Second by Von Wald. Roll call vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Von Wald, Meyer, Olsen, Warzecha, Moulton, and Perkins.

Public Hearing – ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification

The board convened a public hearing at approximately 9:33 a.m. CT on the proposed rule changes to ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification. Presented by Kathryn Blaha, Director of Accreditation and Certification.

Written Testimony

- Amy Humpal
 - English Language Arts teacher, Bon Homme School District - self
 - Proponent
 - Tyndall
 - May 29, 2026
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - Expressed support for proposed rules changes. "The new proposal is much more streamlined and easier to understand than the current rules. The language for adding endorsements is clear and concise. In addition, requirements for recertification are now more in line with what should be expected for educators, administrators, and specialists. I appreciate the time the DOE has spent in proposing these changes."
 - None
 - None
- Chrissy Peterson
 - Special Services Director, Meade - self
 - Proponent
 - Sturgis
 - June 8, 2026
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - "I am in full support of the proposed rule change to eliminate unnecessary barriers for certification. I especially support changing the unnecessary

requirements for certain preparations to add Early Childhood SPED endorsements. Living in the Black Hills, I am accustomed to having enough teacher applications to fill my positions because people want to live in the Hills. However, this is not the norm anymore. As of June 8, 2026, I still have two special education openings with no viable applicants. In May, I juggled key positions to help manage the vacancies. One was moving one of my veteran special education teachers to the vacant early intervention special education classroom. This teacher is outstanding and year after year, has developed skills in children that only master educators can do. My mentioned teacher has an elementary/special education degree from Black Hills State University. Under the current certification rules, she would still need to go through the “hoops” of obtaining an Early Childhood SPED endorsement just to teach 3–5-year-olds. That is a hard sell for a veteran teacher who already has a proven track record of successfully teaching young children with disabilities. By eliminating unnecessary requirements, districts would have more flexibility in placing special education teachers where students need them most. More importantly, experienced teachers like mine would not have to take additional classes or pass another Praxis exam simply to prove what years of successful teaching have already demonstrated that they are GREAT teachers. Thank you for your consideration.”

- None
- None
- Mitchell Reed
 - Superintendent, Florence
 - Proponent
 - Watertown
 - June 8, 2026
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - Expressed support specifically for the CTE rules. “These updates represent a thoughtful and practical approach to strengthening educational opportunities for students while addressing workforce shortages that continue to impact schools across South Dakota.” Appreciates the simplification and clarification of the alternative certification process, flexibility in adding endorsements. The rules provide a “clearer and more accessible pathway for [industry professionals] to become educators.” Highlighted that the proposed rules provide “practical solutions while mainlining high standards for instruction.” Indicated strong support from the district and appreciation of efforts to modernize certification pathways associated with CTE.
 - None
 - None
- Bert Falak
 - Director, Northeast Technical High School - self
 - Proponent
 - Watertown
 - June 17, 2026
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - “I am writing in support of the proposed rule changes to CTE alternative certification. These changes represent a practical step forward for Career and Technical Education in South Dakota. They reduce unnecessary barriers, streamline the certification process, and create greater consistency across the

CTE system. I especially support the continued recognition and expansion of the CTE instructor permit pathway, as well as additional flexibility in endorsements. In my experience, the permit pathway is essential. Many of our strongest CTE instructors come from skilled trades and industry backgrounds, and this pathway allows schools to bring those individuals into the classroom in a practical and workable way while maintaining flexibility for program needs. Overall, these proposed rule changes make sense, reduce confusion, and will benefit CTE programs, teachers, and students. While they will not solve every CTE staffing challenge, they are a practical and positive step in the right direction. I support the proposed changes and encourage their approval."

- None
- None

- **Bobbie Jo Donovan**

- College & Career Readiness Manager, Rapid City - self
- Proponent
- Rapid City
- June 17, 2026 (after 9 am deadline)
- ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
- "Hello. My name is Bobbie Jo Donovan, and I serve as the College & Career Readiness Manager for Rapid City Area Schools. I am also a past president of the South Dakota Association for Career and Technical Education. One of my responsibilities is supporting our CTE teachers and programs across the district, and I work closely with new teachers as they navigate the certification process.

I want to share my support for the proposed certification rule changes. From my experience, these changes make sense and address some of the challenges we've seen when trying to bring qualified professionals into the classroom. The updates help remove unnecessary barriers, provide clearer certification pathways, and still maintain the high expectations we have for educators in South Dakota.

These changes are especially important for districts like Rapid City. Like many schools across the state, we continue to face challenges finding and retaining qualified teachers in specialized CTE areas. We have talented industry professionals who want to teach and share their expertise with students, but sometimes the certification process can be difficult to navigate. Providing additional pathways to certification and endorsement gives schools more flexibility while ensuring teachers are prepared to be successful in the classroom. I am also excited to see the alignment with the updated Career Cluster Framework and the flexibility it creates as CTE programs continue to evolve. Our workforce needs are constantly changing, and our certification system should be able to adapt as new programs and career opportunities emerge. These updates will help schools offer relevant, high-quality programs while giving educators more options to build their credentials and expand their teaching opportunities. Overall, I believe this rules package is a positive step forward for Career and Technical Education in South Dakota. It supports teachers, helps districts meet workforce and staffing needs, and ultimately benefits students by expanding access to strong CTE programs that prepare them for future careers."

- None
- None

- Tom Culver
 - Former Avon Superintendent, Incoming Bon Homme Superintendent - self
 - Proponent
 - Avon
 - June 18, 2026 (added written comments due to potential conflict for oral testimony)
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - "Good morning to the South Dakota Board of Education Standards,
My name is Tom Culver and I will be taking over as the Superintendent of the Bon Homme School District on July 1. I am submitting my testimony in writing due to a previous conflict in my schedule. I am representing myself with my testimony.
I am testifying in support of eliminating the Alternate Preliminary Certificate. My previous administrative position was as the Superintendent of the Avon School District. A few years ago, our Shop/Industrial Tech Teacher retired after many years as a South Dakota educator. The district advertised for a new teacher to take over that position. We did not receive any applicants for the position. After several months we decided to explore other options to find a teacher. In the community there was a young man that graduated from Avon in the early 2000's and was working construction. I approached him about the position and he decided to take on the new endeavor.
Our Principal worked with him over the Spring and Summer to apply for the Alternative Certificate. Both the Principal and the Teacher Candidate filled out the application for the Alternative Preliminary Certificate and believed they were finished with that step. In the fall when our Administrative Assistant was filling out the PRF, they discovered the teacher did not have the proper certificate.
I am asking the Board to consider eliminating the Alternative Preliminary Certificate. I believe it is an extra step that the teachers applying for the Alternative Certificate don't need to complete. In this case, the teacher candidate considered quitting and not going any further toward becoming a teacher. By eliminating this step, I don't believe we are lowering our standards. I believe we are not going to frustrate Alternative Certificate Candidates due to the repetitive steps and they end up quitting. We are critically short of teachers in our State, so we cannot afford to lose any prospective new teachers.
I want to thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony."
 - None
 - None

Oral Testimony

- Dr. Kathryn Blaha
 - Director, Accreditation and Certification, SD Department of Education
 - Proponent
 - Winner
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - Dr. Blaha presented the proposed rules package. An overview of the package was provided with the use of a PowerPoint presentation. These proposed rules have been developed with the purpose of streamlining the certification process by eliminating unnecessary barriers to certification, clarify

- requirements and provide additional flexibilities as well as clarifying and updating language. This package was developed with LRC guidance. Dr. Blaha described the processes for seeking feedback from stakeholders and the effect of the proposed rule changes. She reviewed types and comments received associated with this rules package – all of which were proponents.
- VonWald expressed desperate need for CTE instructors, shared confusion associated with CTE options for certification but was comfortable after Dr. Blaha reviewed the routes. Heineman asked for clarification on the Preliminary Alternative certificate and work experience. Moulton asked questions about how the changes were authored, changes to the Library Science permit, and when the proposed changes could go into effect. Perkins asked for clarification regarding two similar permits, where associated coursework could be taken, and CTE pathways. Von Wold expressed interest in changing terminology of pathways to sub-cluster.
 - Following proponent testimony, questions and discussion from the Board, the package was voted on and passed 7-0.
- Brock Rops
 - Executive Director – South Dakota HOSA: Future Health Professionals
 - Proponent
 - [Residence of the Person Submitting the Testimony]
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - Spoke in favor of the CTE changes, specifically health sciences. Feels this is a need expressed by high schools in the state. Health partners would also support this change.
 - None
 - None
 - Adam Shaw
 - Lennox Superintendent
 - Proponent
 - [Residence of the Person Submitting the Testimony]
 - ARSD 24:28 Educator Certification
 - Spoke in favor of CTE as well, echoed previous health science comments. Acknowledged that the rules provide flexibility for field experts to teach these courses.
 - None
 - None

Summary of Changes to Proposed Rules Because of the Public Hearing or Comment

- Board corrected for inadvertent error within the package and added the word “validated” to ARSD 24:28:12:02(3)(b) to be aligned with the verbiage contained in the remainder of the package.

Board questions and discussion.

Motion by Von Wald for the approval of the Educator Rule Package. Second by Meyer. Roll call vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha, and Perkins.

Approval of letters from Subcommittee on Human Trafficking

Presented by Andrea Effling, with the Division of College, Career and Student Success. Motion to approve the letters as presented by Meyer. Second by Heineman. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Von Wald, Meyer, Olsen, Warzecha, Moulton, and Perkins.

Secretary's Report

Secretary Graves gave a report.

Board Report and General Discussion

President Perkins led the discussion regarding

Adjournment:

Motion by Heineman to adjourn. Second by Olsen. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Von Wald, Warzecha and Perkins.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:05 AM CT.

NEXT MEETING: September 28, 2026, Aberdeen.

Jordon Cromwell
Executive Secretary BOES

Date: 7/24/2026