



Meeting Minutes
May 27, 2025, 9:00 am (CT)
VIRTUAL - MacKay Library Commons, 800 Governors Dr, Pierre, SD

Members:

Present

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

DOE Staff: Joseph Graves, Hope Reichenbach, Kathryn Blaha, Amanda LaCroix, Kathy Reidy, Andrea Effling, Jordan Varilek, Laura Scheibe, Jane Cronin, and Kristin Berger.

Others: Lisa Weier, Brian Brown, and other 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.

Welcome New Members

Dr. Tonia Warzecha and Greg Von Wald

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Olsen second by Meyer to adopt the May 27, 2025, agenda. Voice vote. All present voted in favor. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Heineman second by Moulton to approve the April 14, 2025, minutes as corrected. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

Public Comment: SDCL 1-25-1

No public comment.

Approval of Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Program

Presented by Andrea Effling, Department of Education. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Von Wald second by Meyer to approve the Calm course as presented. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

Approval of the Educator Preparation Program

Presented by Kathy Reidy, Department of Education. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Meyer second by Moulton to approve the DWU Educator Preparation Program as presented. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

Adoption of ETS Cut Scores for Praxis Test

Presented by Dr. Kathryn Blaha, Division Director, Department of Education. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Olsen second by Heineman to approve the ETS cut scores as presented. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

First Reading of ARSD 24:57 Teacher Performance Standards and Evaluations Rules

Presented by Hope Reichenbach, Department of Education. Board questions and discussion. Motion by Moulton second by Meyer to move to hearing the ARSD 24:57 Teacher Performance Standards and Evaluations rules. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald. Voting nay: Perkins.

Public Hearing – ARSD 24:28 and ARSD 24:53

The Board of Education Standards convened at 9:00 A.M. on May 27, 2025, in Pierre, SD. This meeting was held virtually with an in-person listening location available at 800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD. The rules hearing began at approximately 9:55 A.M.

The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the proposed rules of Department of Education numbered §§ 24:28 (Educator Certification); §§ 24:53 (Educator Preparation Program Approval), adopted under the authority of SDCL 13-1-12.1, 13-42-3, and 13-42-3.2.

Hearing Officer: SD Board of Education Standards

Members of the Board in Attendance: Steve Perkins, Rich Meyer, Linda Olsen, Phyllis Heineman, Jean Moulton, Gary Von Wald, Dr. Tonia Warzecha

Others in Attendance: Secretary of Education Joseph Graves, Kristin Berger, Andrea Effling, Hope Reichenbach, Jordan Varilek, Laura Scheibe, Jane Cronin, Dr. Kathryn Blaha, Kathy Riedy, Amanda LaCroix, Lisa Weier, Brian Brown; other members of the public

Written Testimony

- Brian Wagner
 - Lower Brule Tribal Education Director

- Opponent
- May 15, 2025
- ARSD 24:28 (Educator Certification); ARSD 24:53 (Educator Preparation Program Approval)
- Addressed concerns arising from the original statute language identifying 1993 as the baseline year for the requirement for the South Dakota Indian studies course and noted this rules package does not indicate a baseline year. Mr. Wagner did indicate support that all SD teachers should take the SD Indian studies course but advocated for this requirement to be applied to those already certified, who have not taken the course as well.
- Dr. Kathryn Blaha explained, in her testimony, that the comment associated with the baseline year references the statute currently in place. However, the statutes language will change in July to new language identified in HB 1002, which does not include a baseline year. She added that while this rules package ensures that all certified educators either new to the profession or the state will be required to take the course, the request to have educators who had gained certification without taking the course to do so goes beyond legislative intent.
- None.

Oral Testimony

- Dr. Kathryn Blaha
 - Director, Division of Accreditation and Certification, Department of Education
 - Proponent
 - ARSD 24:28 (Educator Certification); ARSD 24:53 (Educator Preparation Program Approval)
 - Dr. Blaha presented the proposed rules package. An overview of the package was provided. These proposed rules have been developed out of the cleanup necessary with the passage of HB 1002 during the 2025 legislative session as well as feedback provided from an earlier rules package from the Legislative Research Council and further LRC guidance associated with the draft of this rules package. Dr. Blaha described the processes for seeking feedback from stakeholders and the effect of the proposed rule changes. She reviewed types and comment received associated with this rules package: one email comment from an individual identified as an opponent. She addressed the identified any concerns.
 - Comment was made that opponent concerns were addressed.
 - Following proponent testimony, questions and discussion from the Board, the package was voted on and passed 7-0.
- Brian Brown
 - Principal, Norris Elementary, White River School District
 - Proponent
 - ARSD 24:28 (Educator Certification); ARSD 24:53 (Educator Preparation Program Approval)
 - I am the only principal in South Dakota that is teaching a Lakota studies curriculum at the K-5 level and it has positively impacted student attendance. If one resides in South Dakota, the individual resides in Indian Country and whether Indian or non-Indian, in our educational system, it is the people's right to have us be prepared to successfully teach our native students. It is highly recommended to take an Indian Studies course to successfully prepare for teaching in South Dakota. He mentioned the increase of foreign teachers in South Dakota and noted that the SD Indian studies background will help with student success.

- Statement of agreement with Mr. Brown that it makes good sense to have educators in SD take this course
- None.
- Lisa Weier
 - Teaching/Learning Coordinator, South Dakota Education Association
 - Proponent
 - ARSD 24:28 (Educator Certification); ARSD 24:53 (Educator Preparation Program Approval)
 - Strongly in favor of the changes. New language offer clarity and alignment with current practices.
 - Bring attention to fact that it is difficult for educators to obtain the course. DOE does a good job of identifying courses on their website, some districts facilitate courses on their campuses, but many educators have to make arrangements to take the course. Reference to foreign teachers and the continued increase in this population and the challenges associated with access to the courses due to transportation was brought up. She is asking for virtual options. Asking how to make this process easier, but acknowledged that this may be beyond scope of control but hope to bring conversation forward to encourage more virtual options and for schools to facilitate courses on their campuses.
 - Questions regarding asynchronous course availability. Questions regarding what universities offer these courses. Questions of timing if approved and when courses would be available. Questions regarding courses and variety offered. Statement that there is a wide variety of options and that there shouldn't be a problem for someone to have the opportunity to take the course.
 - Dr. Kathryn Blaha will need to follow-up on asynchronous options. There are on-campus and virtual classes available. There are BOR, private, and tribal schools that offer approved courses. Courses are currently available. In regard to timing and calendar, if package is approved, looking to go before IRRC in June. On the DOE website, there are several approved options available and identified each university with the number of classes to select from (total of 12 universities, 18 courses).

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

- None.

Adjournment: 10:56 A.M.

Motion to adopt proposed rules as presented by Von Wald second by Meyer. Roll call vote. Motion carried. Voting aye: Heineman, Moulton, Olsen, Meyer, Warzecha, Von Wald, and Perkins.

Secretary's Report and Discuss BOES Mission, Responsibilities and Authority

Dr. Joseph Graves, Secretary of Education, gave a report and went over the BOES Mission, Responsibilities and Authority.

Board Report and General Discussion

Board discussion.

NEXT MEETING: July 7, 2025 (Virtual).

Adjournment:

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:15 a.m. CT.

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