

DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT RE-1

RESOLUTION - APPLICATION FOR TEACHER LICENSING WAIVERS

WHEREAS, under Colorado law, school districts shall have the opportunity to request a waiver of any requirements imposed by Title 22, Colorado Revised Statutes (hereafter “CRS”) and/or any rule and regulation that has been adopted by the State Board of Education (hereafter “SBE”) pursuant to Title 22; and

WHEREAS, CRS 22-60.5-114, and 1 CCR 301-37 Rule 2260.5-R-23.00 deal with the process by which the SBE may grant waivers to alternative teacher programs, approved inductions programs, professional development plans, or approved programs of preparation; and

WHEREAS, such waivers may be granted upon a showing by the applicant that the waiver is necessary to allow innovative programs or plans intended to improve the quality of the affected educators and would enhance educational opportunity and quality within the school district when the costs the school district of complying with the current requirements significantly limit educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, current teacher licensure regulations make it difficult to innovate in a school setting and the constraints of the existing 187-page teacher licensure regulations provide a burdensome and costly cloak of rules that govern tightly from above and get in the way of and/or prohibit true innovation; and

WHEREAS, effective student learning and taxpayer accountability remain a top priority in the management and governance of Douglas County School District (hereafter “DCSD”) and the proposed licensure waivers will increase the value of state educational investment for students, families, communities, schools, and the school district; and

WHEREAS, DCSD 21st Century Learners will require educators with skills the current licensure process does not provide, e.g., the current licensing models will not allow the District to hire a successful entrepreneur or other types of non-licensed experts to teach our students; in addition, the current licensure system leaves many candidates out and many of our high demand areas unfilled creating fewer qualified candidates in “hard-to-fill” and growing areas such as world languages, vocational/technical, math and special education; and

WHEREAS, support of the waivers has been obtained from a majority of the District Accountability Committee (DAC), Principals and Licensed Administrators in Learning Services, and Teachers as represented by the American Federation of Teacher Executive Board; and

WHEREAS, the “hard-to-fill” endorsements require the following waivers for program participants CRS 22-9-106 (4) Board of Education Duties – waives the requirement that evaluators of licensed personnel must hold an Administrator License or

a Principals License; CRS 22-60.5-106 Endorsement of license – waives the requirement that the department of education causes the license to be endorsed; 1 CCR 301-37 2260.5-R-2.00 General Licensing Regulations and Sections 7.00 Endorsement of Licenses or Authorizations; 8.00 Teaching Endorsements, 9.00 Special Education Endorsements and 11.00 Special Services Endorsements - waives the requirement that the Colorado Department of Education has the sole authority to issue educator licenses and authorizations issue endorsements; and

WHEREAS, the Professional Teacher in Residence, “hard-to-fill” and Alternative Teacher licenses require the following waivers for program participants: CRS 22-60.5-201 Teachers and Special Services Providers - waives the requirement that the department of education is designated as the sole agency authorized to issue alternative teacher licenses and the various components of the state program; 1 CCR 301-37 2260.5-R-2.00 General Licensing Regulations and Section 18.00 Alternative Teacher Preparation Programs -waives the requirement that the Colorado Department of Education has the sole authority to issue educator licenses and authorizations, and prepare persons for alternative teacher licensure programs; CRS 22-63-201 Teacher Employment - waives the law that prohibits a Board from hiring non-licensed individuals; CRS 22-63-403 Teacher Employment - waives the law governing payment of salaries upon termination of a teacher; CRS 22-63-203 Teacher Employment - waives the law governing contracting with probationary teachers and renewal of probationary teacher; CRS 22-63-403 Teacher Employment - waives the law requiring teachers to be licensed or approved to receive remuneration from public monies; CRS 22-63-301 Teacher Employment - waives the provision that establishes grounds for dismissal of a teacher in Colorado; CRS 22-63-302 Teacher Employment - waives the uniform procedures for teacher dismissal and procedures for judicial review; and

WHEREAS, DCSD is poised to execute a plan to deploy an intensive training program promoting teacher training and placement in both hard-to-fill and innovative 21st century areas that do not currently exist, e.g., DCSD’s creation of a Teacher Licensure/Endorsement and Professional in Residence (PiR) ensures that all students’ learning needs are fulfilled with quality applicants; and

WHEREAS, with approval of such waivers, DCSD can increase recruitment and retention of the most talented professionals, including existing licensed teachers; can increase accountability of training to meet hard-to-fill positions; and can be more effective in promoting innovative and cutting edge development for teaching and learning in the 21st century.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Douglas County School District Re. 1, that it hereby officially declares its intent to seek waivers from the SBE as listed above in this resolution and incorporated by reference herein to create a Professional-In-Residence (PiR) program for professionals who work in industry; to endorse licensed teachers not currently endorsed in hard-to-fill positions; to endorse and license teachers where the SBE has not identified endorsements that we need in DCSD; and to use the Colorado Department of Education (hereafter “CDE”) alternative

licensure process as stated by the SBE with the exception of DCSD defining the pre-qualifications for candidates entering the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Education of the Douglas County School District Re. 1 hereby requests the Superintendent submit application to and present evidence before the SBE for such waivers as outlined above in this resolution and incorporated by reference herein.

Adopted this ____ day of October, 2006.

Douglas County School District Re. 1

By: _____
President
Board of Education

Attest:

Secretary