

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**November 4, 2003**

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**SUBJECT**

Proposed Rule Change – 08.02.02.039 Alternative Routes

**BACKGROUND**

To address the recent emphasis both nationally and at the state level on student achievement and the importance of teacher quality to that achievement, the Board launched a project in 1999 (Idaho's MOST) to develop a performance and standards-based system for teacher preparation, licensure, certification and professional development. Initial recommendations from MOST, the Professional Standards Commission, the State Department of Education, and Division of Professional-Technical Education were brought to the Board in August, and the proposed rules were divided up into three separate sections: revisions to the Code of Ethics, alternative routes to certification, and changes to the teacher certification process.

**DISCUSSION**

This rule provides for alternative route to licensure for teachers needing an emergency endorsement, individuals highly qualified in subject matter but with limited experience in educational methodology, and for para-educators (Sections 049.-052.). These alternative routes are to replace old measures for alternative routes and limited approval alternatives (Sections 046.-048.) effective July 1, 2006.

Changes made since the August meeting include the following:

- Section 044. has been changed to allow for renewal of alternate authorization for candidates who are highly and uniquely qualified in a subject area to teach in a district with an identified need for teachers in that area.
- Section 044.01.b. removes the requirement that candidates must first be identified for employment by an Idaho School district and remain employed by the district while in the alternative route preparation program.
- Moves the statement "Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate shall meet or exceed the state qualifying score on appropriate state-approved content, pedagogy, or performance assessment" from the initial qualifications in Section 044.01. to Section 044.02.
- At the recommendation of the Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel of the State Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education, Section 044.02.a. adds a requirement that preparation of the candidate must include mentoring services and a minimum of 1 classroom observation per month until certified. This recommendation is based on acknowledgement of the strength of content knowledge and the weaknesses of background regarding teaching methodology and classroom management for this group of candidates.

The Idaho Special Education Advisory Panel of the State Department of Education's Bureau of Special Education also has 2 additional recommendations for Section 46. Para-educator to Teacher:

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- Recommends that para-educator candidates may possess 32 semester credit hours in lieu of an AA/AAS degree. Staff is further investigating options for para-educators to show that they hold the equivalent educational background of an AA/AAS degree.
  
- Recommends that the para-educator candidate complete a minimum of 24 semester credit hours beyond the AA/AAS degree or 48 semester credit hours beyond the initial 32 hours to be eligible for alternative authorization as a classroom teacher. They also recommend changing the timeline for completion of these credits from three calendar years to six calendar years from the date of admission to the program. This recommendation is based on acknowledgement of the strength of teaching methodology and the potential weakness of content knowledge and whole classroom management for this group of candidates. However, staff feels that this recommendation may be inconsistent with the underlying intent of this portion of the rule, and so this recommendation has not been included in the proposed rule.

**BOARD ACTION**

To approve as proposed rules the changes to IDAPA 08.02.02.039 related to alternative routes.

Moved by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ Carried: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

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**IDAPA 08**  
**TITLE 02**  
**CHAPTER 02**

**08.02.02 - RULES GOVERNING UNIFORMITY**

**039. LIMITED APPROVAL ALTERNATIVES (EXPIRES JULY 1, 2006).**

**01. Consultant Specialist Certificate.** At the request of a school district, the State Department of Education may issue a Consultant Specialist certificate to highly and uniquely qualified persons. The use of the certificate is limited to the applicant's district and is valid for one (1) year. It is intended that use of the Consultant Specialist provision be exceptional and occasional and not used as a regular hiring practice. ( )

**02. Letters of Authorization (LOA).** Letters of Authorization allow Idaho school districts to request emergency certification when a professional position cannot be filled with someone who has the correct certificate. Individuals considered for an LOA must have at least a baccalaureate degree and must enroll in a program to achieve full certification in the area of authorization. A request for a Letter of Authorization shall be sent to the State Department of Education. The request and supporting information will be reviewed by the Professional Standards Commission, with the final recommendation of the Commission submitted by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for State Board of Education approval. An LOA is valid for one year and may renewed annually upon completion of nine (9) semester credit hours applicable to the standards for full certification in the area of authorization. ( )

**03. Limited Transitional Letter of Approval.** This non-renewable letter of approval is valid for one year only. The purpose of the letter of approval is to allow a teacher with secondary certification (grades 6-12) to teach at the elementary levels (K-8) without additional student teaching, or vice versa. Other than student teaching, all other requirements for the desired certificate must be met. Upon successful completion of one year of teaching while holding the Limited Transitional Letter of Approval, the educator will be eligible to hold the appropriate elementary or secondary certificate. To be eligible for a Limited Transitional Letter of Approval, the following requirements must be met: ( )

a. Must hold a valid Idaho Elementary or Secondary Teaching Certificate. ( )

b. Must provide verification of four years of successful classroom teaching while holding the proper state certificate. ( )

c. Must have completed all of the requirements for the Standard Elementary Certificate, except student teaching, if the applicant currently holds a Standard Secondary Certificate. If the applicant currently holds a Standard Elementary Certificate, all of the requirements for a Standard Secondary Certificate must have been completed, except student teaching. ( )

d. Must provide the State Department of Education with written verification that a mentor teacher holding the same certificate as the one the applicant is seeking will be provided for the applicant by the employing district; or be enrolled in a one-year supervised internship experience under the supervision of personnel from a college or university with an approved teacher preparation program. ( )

**04. Postsecondary Specialist.** A Postsecondary Specialist Letter of Approval may be granted to teaching faculty of Idaho public postsecondary institutions, who are not otherwise certificated, upon recommendation by the postsecondary institution (dean level or above) to be eligible to teach in the public schools. It is intended that the letter of approval will be used primarily for distance education and "virtual university" programs. The Postsecondary Specialist Letter of Approval is valid for five (5) years and is renewable. ( )

**040. MISASSIGNMENTS – GRANDFATHERING (EXPIRES JULY 1, 2006).**

**01. Certificate.** A person employed by a school district in a position requiring a certificate must hold a valid certificate for the service being rendered. In any situation in which a person not holding a specific endorsement is to provide educational services in a specific area, the employing district must apply to the State Department of Education's ~~Certification Office~~ for misassigned status to place the individual in that assignment for the school year. The district must demonstrate in a written report that it has made a good faith effort to employ

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properly certificated educators for those duties and that a conscientious effort is being made to remedy each specific problem. Criteria for acceptance of the report includes the following: ~~(4-1-97)~~( )

a. The duties may comprise no more than one-half (1/2) of the teacher's full time assignment;  
(4-1-97)

b. Teachers who are misassigned must have a minimum of six (6) semester hours of college credit in each subject area in which service is rendered; and \_\_\_\_\_(4-1-97)

c. Teachers who are misassigned must comprise no more than five percent (5%) of the total number of the district's certificated, full-time teachers, or five (5) teachers, whichever is greater. Districts which have secondary schools located more than fifteen (15) miles from another secondary school may misassign up to an additional five (5) teachers upon approval of the ~~Certification Office~~State Department of Education. However, in no circumstance will more than five (5) teachers be misassigned in any one building. \_\_\_\_\_(4-1-97)( )

~~02. Waiver. Districts may request a waiver of the misassignment policy, according to IDAPA 08.02.01, Section 001. The waiver request must include a rationale for the misassignment. \_\_\_\_\_(4-1-97)~~

**032. Effect On Accreditation.** All misassignments will be noted on the accreditation report. Any misassignments not meeting the above criteria may effect accreditation. Funds will be withheld for that portion of the misassigned person's time which exceeds the criteria included in this rule if a waiver has not been approved by the State Board of Education. \_\_\_\_\_(4-1-97)

~~04. Previous Exceptions. Any teacher authorized to teach under previous exceptions to the rules of the State Board of Education, based upon service or experience before September 1978, will continue to be authorized to teach as provided for under previous rule IDAPA 08.02.03, Subsection 180.06. \_\_\_\_\_(4-1-97)~~

**041. ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION (EXPIRES JULY 1, 2006).**

The purpose of this program is to provide an alternative for individuals to become certificated secondary teachers in Idaho without following a standard teacher education program. The purpose of this certification is to provide an alternative for individuals with strong subject matter background but limited experience with educational methodology. Qualified applicants will begin contracted teaching earlier and will be admitted to the program using criteria that are different from existing programs but more appropriate for the circumstances. This certification is valid for three (3) years and is non-renewable. To be eligible for alternative certification, the following requirements must be satisfied: \_\_\_\_\_( )

**01. Initial Qualifications.** Prior to application: The prospective candidate must possess a baccalaureate (or higher) degree from an accredited college/ university with a minimum grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale completed at least five (5) years earlier. Additionally, an applicant must hold academic credits equivalent to current major and minor requirements for secondary endorsements; be assured of full-time employment in an Idaho school district; and, meet all non-academic requirements of the State of Idaho. \_\_\_\_\_( )

**02. Teacher Trainee Program.** Alternative certification is valid for two years of teaching. The teacher trainee program must be completed within three calendar years from the date of admission to the program. It authorizes the teacher trainee to teach only the subject(s) listed on the letter of approval and only at the secondary level. \_\_\_\_\_( )

a. A teacher trainee will work toward completion of the teacher trainee program through participating colleges and universities, the State Department of Education, and the employing school district. A teacher must attend, participate in, and successfully complete an individualized two-year teacher trainee program as one of the conditions to receive recommendation for the Standard Secondary Teaching Certificate. A formal teacher trainee plan will be developed by a consortium composed of the mentor teacher, a representative from the school district, a representative of the State Department of Education, and a representative of the participating higher education institution with an approved secondary education program. Any deviation from the formal trainee plan must be approved by the consortium. The consortium will be responsible for the program design, supervision, and evaluation of the training. The teacher trainee program shall include: \_\_\_\_\_( )

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i. Prior to entering the classroom, completion of nine (9) semester credit hours of pre-service training from an institution of higher education in educational course work pertinent to the education profession. ( )

ii. Prior to completion of the Alternate Route Program, at least one course in each of the following areas must be completed: Philosophical Foundations of Education; Psychological Foundations of Education; Methodology; Reading in the Content Area. ( )

iii. Completion of a thirty (30) hour, pre-service orientation presented by the school district prior to a classroom assignment. This orientation shall include district policies, procedures, curriculum, instructional model, community characteristics, and resources. ( )

iv. Completion of a four semester college/university internship. The trainee shall be enrolled in three (3) semester credit hours of internship each semester. ( )

v. Completion of a six to nine (6-9) semester credit hour program during the second summer from an institution of higher learning. The pre-service AND second summer program of fifteen to eighteen (15-18) semester credit hours in total shall include: philosophical, psychological, and methodological foundations of the profession, and reading in the content area. The consortium will determine the content required for the trainee, which may include both pedagogical and subject area course work. When designing the content necessary for the individual teacher trainee to complete the program, the consortium shall consider previous college credit as documented in official transcripts. Efforts will be directed to provide observation and clinical experiences during the time prior to being assigned to the classroom. ( )

b. Assistance by Mentor Teachers: Each teacher trainee must be assisted by and guided throughout the two-year training period by a certificated employee of the district who has been designated as a mentor teacher. Principals must ensure that teacher trainees are provided with direct assistance, which should include close clinical supervision, especially at the beginning of the internship. ( )

c. Performance Evaluations: In order to receive a consortium recommendation for the Standard Secondary Teaching Certificate, the teacher trainee must complete at least two years of successful performance as a teacher under the teacher trainee program. Principals are to provide assistance to teacher trainees regarding the purpose, expectations, and procedures involved in the evaluation process and with whatever guidance may be needed. The principal shall formally evaluate the teacher trainee at least once each semester of the school year. For purposes of suspension or dismissal, teacher trainees are to be treated as non-continuing contract employees. The district may suspend or dismiss teacher trainees in accordance with the procedures as provided in Idaho Code. The Teacher Trainee Letter of Approval may be suspended or revoked if there is failure to satisfactorily and successfully complete the stages of the individualized plan within the specified time frames as established by the consortium; or, failure to obtain at least a 2.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale in the college credit portion of the program. Also, no individual grade can be lower than a "C"; or, any other causes for suspension or revocation as found in Idaho Code, 33-1208. ( )

d. The teacher trainee, upon successful completion of the teacher trainee program as verified by the consortium, will be eligible to apply for a Standard Secondary Teaching Certificate. The two years of experience as a teacher trainee shall be counted toward continuing contract status as authorized in Idaho Code, 33-515. ( )

**042. ALTERNATE ROUTES TO CERTIFICATION (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).**

The purpose of this program is to provide an alternative for individuals to become certificated teachers in Idaho without following a standard teacher education program. Individuals who are currently employed as Para-Educators, individuals who are currently certificated to teach but who are in need of emergency certification in another area, and individuals with strong subject matter background but limited experience with educational methodology shall follow the alternate certification requirements provided herein. ( )

**043. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – TEACHER TO NEW CERTIFICATION (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).**

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to allow Idaho school districts to request emergency endorsement/certification when a professional position cannot be filled with someone who has the correct endorsement/certification. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and is nonrenewable. ( )

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**01. Initial Qualifications.** Prior to application, a candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree, and a valid Idaho teacher certificate without full endorsement in content area of need. The school district must declare an emergency and provide supportive information attesting to the ability of the candidate to fill the position. ( )

**02. Alternative Route Preparation Program.**

a. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university, and the employing school district. Candidate must complete a minimum of 9 semester credits annually to be eligible for extension of up to a total of three (3) years. ( )

b. The participating college/university shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. ( )

c. Candidate shall meet all requirements for the endorsement/certificate as provided herein. ( )

**044. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – CONTENT SPECIALIST (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).**

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to offer an expedited route to certification for individuals who are highly and uniquely qualified in a subject area to teach in a district with an identified need for teachers in that area. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and may be renewable. ( )

**01. Initial Qualifications.**

a. Prior to application, a candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree. ( )

b. The candidate shall meet enrollment qualifications of the alternative route preparation program.

**02. Alternative Route Preparation Program – College/University Preparation.**

a. A consortium comprised of a designee from the college/university to be attended, and a representative from the school district, and the candidate shall determine preparation needed to meet the Idaho Standards for Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel. This preparation must include mentoring and a minimum of 1 classroom observation per month until certified. ( )

b. Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate completes eight (8) to sixteen (16) weeks of accelerated study in education pedagogy. ( )

c. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university, and the employing school district. A teacher must attend, participate in, and successfully complete an individualized alternative route preparation program as one of the conditions to receive a recommendation for full certification. ( )

d. The participating college/university shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions and relevant life/work experiences. ( )

e. Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate shall meet or exceed the state qualifying score on appropriate state-approved content, pedagogy, or performance assessment. ( )

**0456. PARA-EDUCATOR TO TEACHER (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006).**

The purpose of this alternative route to certification is to encourage qualified para-educators employed in Idaho classrooms to become certificated teachers. ( )

**01. Initial Qualifications.** Prior to application: the candidate must hold an AA/AAS degree, meet state para-educator standards, and be employed as a para-educator. Districts shall identify potential candidate with appropriate dispositions for teaching, and continue to employ candidate as para-educators. District/school provides orientation for candidate as deemed appropriate. ( )

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**02. Alternative Route Preparation Program.** Alternative certification is valid for two years of teaching. The alternative route preparation program must be completed within three calendar years from the date of admission to the program. ( )

a. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university, and the employing school district. A teacher must attend, participate in, and successfully complete an individualized alternative route preparation program as one of the conditions to receive a recommendation for full certification. ( )

b. The participating college/university shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. ( )

c. Candidate shall complete all requirements for certification as provided herein. ( )

~~051467~~. -- 059. (RESERVED). ( )