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Education Interim Committee

68th Montana Legislature

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TO: Education Interim Committee Members
FROM: Laura Sankey Keip, Staff Attorney
DATE: June 23, 2023
RE: Administrative Rule Review – June 2023

BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

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| MAR Notice No. | 10-55-290 – Proposal Notice 10-55-290 – Adoption Notice 10-55-290 – Supplemental Adoption Notice |
| Status | ADOPTED |
| Public Hearing Date | October 31, 2022 |
| Public Comment Period | CLOSED: November 4, 2022 |
| Summary of Proposed Changes | <p>The Board of Public Education (Board) undertook an overhaul of the accreditation standards in Chapter 55. It was a lengthy process that started with a task force and a negotiated rulemaking committee established by OPI, which developed recommendations for the Superintendent to present to the Board for consideration. The Board published their proposed changes in September 2022. Following a public hearing and a comment period, the Board adopted the changes in March 2023 and published a supplemental adoption notice in April 2023.</p> <p>The rule changes update many of the accreditation standards in new and existing rules throughout Chapter 55. Changes include: updating the Continuous School Improvement Plan to an Integrated Strategic Action Plan to include alignment with the local trustees' strategic plan; requiring a graduate profile; shifting to an outcome-based model and emphasizing proficiency-based learning; creating a new charter school application rule separate from the variances to standards rule; emphasizing family and community engagement; requiring a mentoring and induction program for new teachers; redefining the categories of accreditation; aligning English Language Learner requirements to federal standards; requiring assessment of school climate as a way to improve student outcomes; and adding new graduation requirements for a 1/2 unit of civics or government and a 1/2 unit of economics or financial literacy.</p> |

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| | The rule changes are effective as of July 1, 2023, except that the new graduation requirements for 1/2 unit of civics or government and 1/2 unit of economics or financial literacy were postponed until July 1, 2025, to avoid disruption of the graduation and existing study plans for incoming juniors and seniors. |
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| MAR Notice No. | 10-58-272 – Proposal Notice 10-58-272 – Adoption Notice |
| Status | ADOPTED |
| Public Hearing Date | August 30, 2022 |
| Public Comment Period | CLOSED: September 2, 2022 |
| Summary of Proposed Changes | <p>The Board adopted 1 new rule and made changes to 41 rules in Chapter 58, which governs the professional educator preparation program standards.</p> <p>The new rule provides standards for the English as a Second Language program.</p> <p>The revisions run throughout the chapter and include changes to the generally applicable rules, including rules governing the state's administrative procedural standards, curriculum principles and standards for both basic and advanced degree programs, and the general teaching standards.</p> <p>Rules pertaining to specific programs were also amended. The programs affected include: agricultural education; K-12 art; business education; English/language arts; P-12 special education; world languages (including the addition of American Sign Language); health; family and consumer sciences; industrial technical sciences; journalism; K-12 library media; mathematics; K-12 reading specialists; social studies; communication; computer science; early childhood education; and elementary education.</p> <p>The rule changes take effect July 1, 2023.</p> |