

**WSR 21-15-091**  
**PROPOSED RULES**  
**PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR**  
**STANDARDS BOARD**

[Filed July 19, 2021, 5:20 p.m.]

Original Notice.

Preproposal statement of inquiry was filed as WSR 21-04-098.

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: WAC 181-82A-207, 181-82A-208, 181-82A-210, and 181-82A-212, rule making relating to specialty endorsements.

Hearing Location(s): On September 16, 2021, at 8 a.m. The September board meeting will be held in Spokane, Washington. The exact location is to be determined. Once determined, we will post the location on our website. We will also have a link available to listen to the meeting virtually, which will become available several weeks prior to the meeting. More information regarding this can be found on our website <https://www.pesb.wa.gov/about-us/board-meetings/>.

Date of Intended Adoption: September 16, 2021.

Submit Written Comments to: Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB), P.O. Box 47236, 600 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-7236, email [pesb@k12.wa.us](mailto:pesb@k12.wa.us), by 8:00 a.m., Monday, September 13, 2021.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact PESB, phone 360-725-6275, email [pesb@k12.wa.us](mailto:pesb@k12.wa.us), by Friday, September 2, 2021.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: This proposed rule revises policy around specialty endorsements. Under this rule, teachers, administrators, and educational staff associates would be able to add a specialty endorsement to their certificate. In addition, this rule clarifies a process for adding a specialty endorsement to the state system. Currently, teacher preparation programs can offer a specialty endorsement. This rule provides a process for other organizations to apply to offer a specialty endorsement.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: This rule revises and updates current policy. This rule reflects the recommendations of a stakeholder workgroup convened by PESB. This rule allows for the assets that community organizations can bring to professional learning for educators.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: Chapter 28A.410 RCW.

Statute Being Implemented: Chapter 28A.410 RCW.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Proponent: PESB, governmental.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting: Maren Johnson, P.O. Box 47236, 600 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-7236, 360-867-8424; Implementation and Enforcement: PESB, P.O. Box 47236, 600 Washington Street S.E., Olympia, WA 98504-7236.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3) as the rules adopt, amend, or repeal a procedure, practice, or requirement relating to agency hearings; or a filing or related process requirement for applying to an agency for a license or permit.

July 17, 2021

## OTS-3150.2

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-08-024, filed 3/29/21, effective 4/29/21)

**WAC 181-82A-208 Specialty endorsements and educator certificates.**

(1) The following specialty endorsements may only be added to an existing endorsed (~~(teaching)~~) teacher certificate:

~~((1))~~ (a) Environmental and sustainability education.

~~((2))~~ (b) Teacher of the visually impaired. Upon adoption of a content knowledge assessment by the professional educator standards board, teacher of the visually impaired will be available as an endorsement. Until adoption, teacher of the visually impaired will be available as a specialty endorsement.

~~((3))~~ (c) Gifted education.

~~((4))~~ (d) Elementary mathematics specialist.

~~((5))~~ (e) Other specialty endorsements as approved by the professional educator standards board.

(2) The following specialty endorsements may be added to an existing administrator certificate, educational staff associate certificate, or endorsed teacher certificate:

(a) Elementary computer science.

(b) Secondary computer science.

(c) Other specialty endorsements as approved by the professional educator standards board.

(3) Providers approved by the professional educator standards board may recommend a candidate for a specialty endorsement to the superintendent of public instruction.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 28A.410 RCW. WSR 21-08-024, § 181-82A-208, filed 3/29/21, effective 4/29/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 28A.410.210. WSR 13-05-071, § 181-82A-208, filed 2/19/13, effective 3/22/13; WSR 13-04-098, § 181-82A-208, filed 2/6/13, effective 3/9/13; WSR 11-12-079, § 181-82A-208, filed 5/31/11, effective 7/1/11; WSR 10-17-015, § 181-82A-208, filed 8/5/10, effective 9/5/10; WSR 09-12-087, § 181-82A-208, filed 6/1/09, effective 7/2/09; WSR 06-20-063, § 181-82A-208, filed 9/29/06, effective 10/30/06.]

NEW SECTION

**WAC 181-82A-210 Proposal process for a new specialty endorsement in Washington state.** Organizations seeking the creation of a new specialty endorsement in Washington state follow a two-phase process including a preproposal and a proposal.

(1) **Preproposal.** The applicants must submit a preproposal declaring an intent to submit a proposal for the creation of a new specialty endorsement in Washington state. The preproposal will address all re-

quirements published by the board including, but not limited to, the following. The preproposal will:

- (a) Provide the name of the specialty endorsement;
- (b) Identify at least two organizations submitting the proposal for the new specialty endorsement. These organizations must be eligible to serve as in-service education agencies under WAC 181-85-045;
- (c) Identify the proposed essential learnings for the specialty endorsement, or describe the plan to develop the essential learnings;
- (d) Describe how the specialty endorsement is aligned and responsive to the cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion (CCDEI) standards under RCW 28A.410.260. Until the CCDEI standards are adopted by the board, the proposers will describe how the specialty endorsement is aligned and responsive to the cultural competency standards published by the board; and
- (e) Describe the need for the specialty endorsement, demonstrating response to educator, student, and community needs.

(2) **Proposal.** If the preproposal receives approval from the professional educator standards board, the proposers shall submit a proposal. The proposal will address all requirements published by the board including, but not limited to, the following:

- (a) Identify any changes to the preproposal information since the preproposal was submitted;
- (b) Letter of commitment from at least two organizations interested in seeking approval to offer the specialty endorsement. If the organizations submitting letters of commitment are the same organizations who are submitting the proposal, the proposal must include at least one letter of support from an additional organization;
- (c) Pilot. The proposal will include a description of the pilot of essential learnings for the specialty endorsement including, but not limited to:
  - (i) Report on the diversity of pilot participants;
  - (ii) Description of how the pilot was aligned and responsive to the cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion (CCDEI) standards under RCW 28A.410.260. Until the CCDEI standards are adopted by the board, the proposers will describe how the pilot was aligned and responsive to the cultural competency standards published by the board;
  - (iii) Approved specialty endorsement providers may consider work completed by an individual in a specialty endorsement pilot towards meeting the requirements for recommendation for a specialty endorsement.

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#### NEW SECTION

**WAC 181-82A-212 Proposal process for an organization to be approved to offer a specialty endorsement.** Organizations seeking approval to offer a specialty endorsement follow a one-phase proposal process.

(1) **Organizational eligibility:**

- (a) Organizations eligible to apply for approval as a specialty endorsement program provider include those eligible to serve as an in-service education agency under WAC 181-85-045.

(b) In order to offer a specialty endorsement, providers must maintain status as an approved in-service education agency or professional educator standards board approved educator preparation program provider.

(2) **Proposal process.** The prospective provider will submit a proposal that addresses all requirements published by the board including, but not limited to, the following:

(a) Description of how the organization will determine that a participant has met the requirements for the specialty endorsement, including the essential learnings;

(b) Statement of need for the provider offering the specialty endorsement, demonstrating response to educator, student, and community needs;

(c) Description of strategies and practices the organization will use to recruit and retain participants from historically excluded groups, including participants of color;

(d) Description of how the provider will implement the specialty endorsement offering in a manner aligned and responsive to the cultural competency, diversity, equity, and inclusion (CCDEI) standards under RCW 28A.410.260. Until the CCDEI standards are adopted by the board, the proposer will describe how the provider will implement the specialty endorsement offering in a manner aligned and responsive to the cultural competency standards published by the board;

(e) At least two letters of support from education or community-related organizations; and

(f) Organizational capacity to support participants in completing a specialty endorsement.

(3) **Reapproval, rescindment, and disapproval.**

(a) Specialty endorsement program providers approved under this section must complete a reapproval process every five years per a schedule posted by the professional educator standards board.

(b) The board, upon receipt of a serious complaint from any source, or upon its own initiative prompted by indications of the need for response, may require a provider to complete the reapproval process.

(c) Approved providers that voluntarily rescind their approval shall be permitted to continue to prepare and recommend for a specialty endorsement. Candidates who have been previously admitted to the program, provided that no recommendations for credentials will be accepted later than twelve months following receipt of the formal letter to rescind provider approval. The provider will notify all currently enrolled candidates of the provider's change in status and notify candidates of the twelve-month timeline to complete requirements for recommendation.

(d) Disapproved specialty endorsement programs may reapply for approval by following the specialty endorsement approval process.

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#### REPEALER

The following section of the Washington Administrative Code is repealed:

WAC 181-82A-207 Specialty endorsement criteria.