



Thursday, May 12, 2016

Superintendents and Charter Administrators,

SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide additional guidance regarding highly qualified teachers (HQT) requirements for Idaho school districts.

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As stated in previous correspondence, HQT provisions included in the No Child Left Behind Act are not included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and districts are no longer required to identify and document HQT status. However, the State of Idaho Administrative Code (IDAPA 08.02.02) regarding the **certification** requirements for instruction staff remains in full effect. In summary, the administrative rules state:

- Individuals with a standard elementary certificate must hold either a K-8 All Subjects endorsement or a K-12 subject area endorsement. Specific subject area endorsements allow the teacher to teach courses in the specific subject area for which they received the endorsement.
- Instructional staff holding a standard secondary certificate are eligible to teach grades 6 through 12. Individuals with a standard secondary certificate must hold an applicable subject area endorsement that is germane to the course subject being taught.
- Instructional staff with an Exceptional Child Certificate are authorized to work with children in kindergarten through grade 12 who have been identified as having an educational impairment. Individuals with a K-12 Generalist endorsement may teach student in kindergarten through grade 12 in a special education setting and individuals with a Pre-k-3 endorsement may teach student in pre-kindergarten through grade 3 in a special education setting. The applicable requirements of the Individuals with Disability in Education Act also apply. These individuals are not authorized to teach in a non-special education setting without the requisite certifications and endorsements.

As stated previously, the State Department of Education will continue to monitor teacher qualifications through the Title II, Part A office and collect data regarding the certification, endorsements teaching assignments and years of experience for each district's instructional staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherri Ybarra".

Sherri Ybarra
Superintendent of Public Instruction

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matt Freeman".

Matt Freeman
Executive Director, State Board of Education