

Commission on Professional Standards in Education Update

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Office of Educator Development, Licensure
and Family Engagement (EDLiFE)

Presentation to the State Board of Education
September 1, 2022



Presentation Outcomes

- Respond to the State Board's request for an update on educator licensure activities
- Summarize the Commission on Professional Standards in Education's (COPS) 2021 Report
- Provide an overview of ongoing efforts to ensure equitable and high-quality pathways to licensure

Commission Report

Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 391.028 Annual report concerning status of Commission's regulations and work plan. On or before December 31 of each year, the Commission shall submit a written report to the State Board and the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Education. The report must include, without limitation:

1. A summary of the regulations adopted by the Commission and the status of those regulations;
2. A work plan which designates the proposed activities of the Commission during the next year; and
3. A description of the progress and status of each regulation relating to the licensure of educational personnel which the Commission is required to adopt pursuant to a legislative measure enacted within the two previous regular sessions of the Legislature or any special session of the Legislature occurring within that time. If the Commission has not adopted a required regulation, the Commission shall include in the report a detailed explanation describing the reasons each regulation was not adopted.

Commission Report Highlights

- Membership
- Legislative Actions
- Adopted Regulations
- Pending Public Hearing Regulations

2021 Legislative Action

Assembly Bill (AB) 225 directed the Commission, when adopting regulations, **to consider including alternative means of demonstrating competency other than examinations for person with a disability or health-related need.**

- The Department is in the process of researching best practices in this area, as well as what would be considered appropriate alternative means of demonstrating competency.
- The Department is also in the process of soliciting stakeholders to take part in a work group to consider how this could best be implemented.

Senate Bill (SB) 352 directed the **Commission to make regulations that support accelerated pathways for educator and school psychology candidates to complete student teaching and internship requirements for licensure.**

- The Department convened a work group and held a workshop in the spring of 2022.
- Public Hearing is anticipated to be held in October 2022.

Senate Bill (SB) 151 directed the **Commission to make regulations that determine continuing education requirement for school counselors and school psychologists.**

- The Department convened a work group and held a workshop in the spring of 2022.
- Public Hearing is anticipated to be held September 2022.

2021 Regulations Highlights

- **R076-19** updated licensure requirements to better align alternative route to licensure (ARL) with traditional licensure, allowing professional development in lieu of college coursework for the Parent Involvement and Family Engagement (PIFE) and Multicultural Education requirements.
- **R090-19** updated the elementary and early childhood licensure requirements, removed the special qualifications license pursuant to Senate Bill 41 (2019), and allowed a member of the United States Armed Forces or their spouse, who completed an ARL program in another state to be licensed in Nevada.
- **Temporary Regulation** amending NAC 391.0896 expired on November 1, 2021, allowing school districts with a student enrollment of over 9,000 students to employ individuals holding only an emergency substitute license, during a state of emergency declared by the Governor pursuant to NRS 414.070.
- **R028-21*** amending NAC 391.0896 regarding emergency substitutes would replace the expired temporary regulation enacted in 2021. *Adopted February 2022.

Highlighted Regulations

Pending Public Hearing

- **R120-22** will add language to conform with Senate Bill 151 (2021) which requires certain renewal requirements for school psychologists and school counselors. This would also define required exams for initial licensure for these endorsements.
- **R121-22** will add language defining required exams for initial licensure and renewal requirements for a school audiologist, school nurse, and school social worker.
- **R122-22** will require teacher preparation programs to include English Language Acquisition and Development coursework or embed relevant content in existing coursework.
- **R123-22** in collaboration with Nevada's State licensing boards for Occupational and Physical Therapists, will update exam requirements and establish licensure for OT and PT assistants.
- **R124-22** will update requirements for the school psychology intern by removing archaic language and replacing with current practice and establish licensure for school psychology assistants.
- **R127-22** will establish a mentorship endorsement for teachers and administrators to align with already established career ladders at Clark County Education Association, Nevada Association of School Administrators, Washoe County School District, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Highlighted Regulations

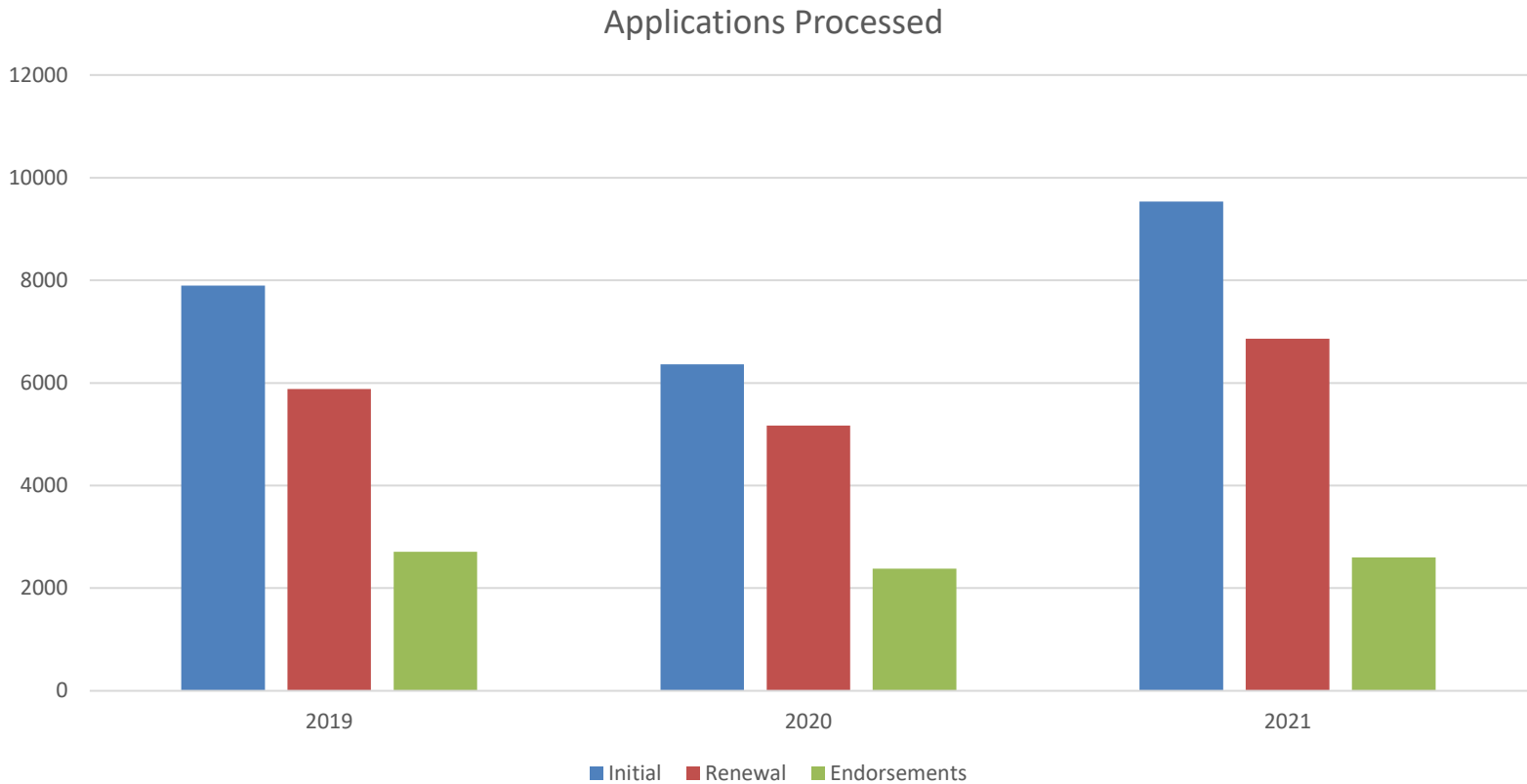
Pending Public Hearing – Cont'd

- **R128-22** will establish a one-year non-renewable special license as a Student Teacher Resident with a reduced licensure fee of \$100.
- **R129-22** addressing SB352 will allow those currently employed as a paraprofessional or school psychology intern to complete a field experience while remaining employed as such.
- **R165-22**
 - will add language to allow up to 10 years to accept required exam scores allowing additional time for career changers and will allow ACT and/or SAT scores to be used in lieu of Praxis CORE.
 - will allow for a certificate of competence to add an endorsement in a Career and Technical Education area to an existing license and will allow a person holding a Business and Industry license to add an endorsement in computer science, cultural competency, and or social, emotional, and academic development.
 - will allow NDE to license educators for career and technical education areas by updating the course catalog instead of updating regulation so we can be more flexible to meet demands in our dynamic workforce.

About the Office of Educator Licensure

- The Department's educator licensure operations are fee-funded.
 - We support 58,314 licensed professionals.
 - We process an average of 13,904 initial and renewal applications per calendar year.
 - We process an average of 2,563 additional endorsements per calendar year.
- Dedicated licensure staff:
 - 5 customer service administrative assistants
 - 5 licensure analysts
 - 3 investigators

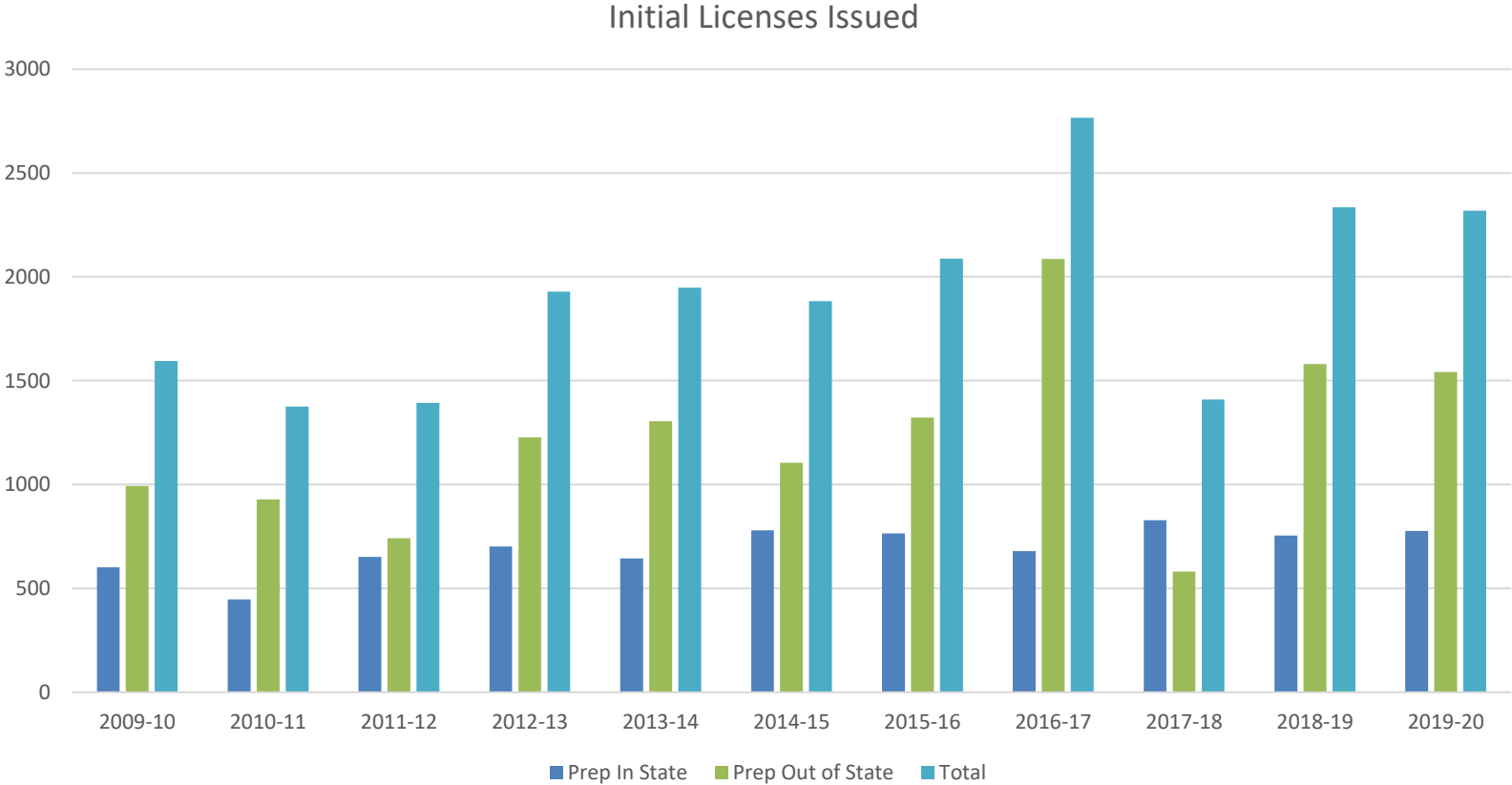
Licensure Applications Processed



About the Licensure Process

- Applications are reviewed by customer service staff for completeness and evaluated by analysts determine if applicants meet qualifications and eligibility
- Background reports are generated by the Department of Public Safety (includes FBI) then reviewed and cleared or further investigated, if necessary, by our investigators
- The majority of licenses are valid for 5-6 years
 - Initial license fee: \$180 (\$40.25 for background)
 - Renewal license fee: \$150 (\$40.25 for background)
 - Endorsement fee: \$50
 - Military discount: \$50
- Licensees receive renewal reminders beginning 270 days in advance of the expiration date
 - The Online Portal for Applications for Licensure (OPAL) allows educators to request a one-time 6-month extension

Initial Licenses Issued



License Reciprocity

- **2017 AB 77** streamlined reciprocity for applicants by removing exam requirements if they hold a valid out-of-state license
- The Parent Involvement & Family Engagement course is the only provision added to all out-of-state licenses*
- **2019 SB 100** streamlined reciprocity for veterans, active duty, and spouses regarding alternative route programs completed in another state
 - 486 initial applications processed
 - 271 renewal applications processed
- Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact

Emergency Regulation

- COPS held a special meeting in July to request that the Governor take emergency action to address educator workforce challenges for the 2022-23 school year.
- Governor Sisolak signed emergency action to:
 - Give the Superintendent of Public Instruction authority to extend certain provisional licenses, positively impacting approximately 600 educators
 - Reduce licensure fees for substitute and emergency substitute teachers from \$180 (initial) or \$150 (renewal) to \$100

Thank You

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Customer Service Support

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