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MEMORANDUM

TO: District Human Resource Leads
Charter School Human Resource Leads

FROM: Jeff Briske, Director, Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement 

DATE: October 14, 2022

SUBJECT: Interim Route to Certification Information

Purpose

This memorandum provides an overview of updates to the process by which county school districts and charter schools may allow existing teachers with a valid provisional (non-ARL), standard or professional teaching license in early childhood, elementary, middle school, secondary, special education, or special teaching licenses to apply for an endorsement in special education and be placed in a special education assignment area for three years while they are completing coursework requirements for that endorsement area. The teacher must also complete at least two years of instruction in that assignment area and receive effective evaluations from their employer for those two years. Requirements are similar to the ARL program, but this is a pathway for existing teachers to obtain special education licensure.

Background

The Options program began with No Child Left Behind (NCLB). There was a High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation (HOUSSE) process to become highly qualified. Options does not live anywhere in NRS or NAC.

Late 2018, The Office of Educator Licensure started an Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) pilot. Existing teachers with a valid provisional (non-ARL), standard or professional teaching license in early childhood, elementary, middle school, secondary, special education, or special teaching licenses went through their district's Alternative Route to Certification (ARC) program to obtain an ARC license in a special education area. This has only been piloted in one district. There was a separate OPAL application (Add ARC) with a fee of \$180 and a required background check. The ARC license was issued as a separate three-year license with a different expiration date. Since the teacher held a special education license, the district was not required to report the teacher as out-of-field.

Update

The ARC was renamed Interim Route to Certification (IRC). IRC is no longer a separate license. Instead, it will be issued as an endorsement. The Add ARC license application in OPAL has been removed. Teachers will use the additional endorsement application. The \$180 fee is now \$50 to match the additional endorsement fee. A new background check is not required. The teacher has three years to complete requirements of the IRC program. Employers may add additional employment agreements to the form. The Options program should be phased out and replaced with IRC.

IRC Application Process

- Applicant will contact district or charter school Human Resources (HR) for the IRC agreement form
- Applicant and building principal will sign the IRC agreement
- A district or charter school HR representative will sign the agreement and provide OPAL instructions to the applicant
- Applicant will complete and submit an Additional Endorsement application in OPAL for the special education endorsement area listed on IRC agreement and submit the completed agreement with the application
- Once the requirements are completed the teacher will submit a provision removal in OPAL by selecting the IRC provision, submit two effective annual employer evaluations and official transcripts with completed coursework for the endorsement

If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Briske, Director of the Office of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement at jjbriske@doe.nv.gov or 702-668-4328.

Cc: Rebecca Feiden, Executive Director, State Public Charter School Authority
District Special Education Directors