

ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL _____

STATE BOARD MEETING DATE October 28, 2013

SUBJECT: Presentation, discussion and consideration to close rulemaking record and adopt proposed rule changes for R7-2-617 regarding Other Professional Certificates.

SUBMITTED BY: Angela Denning, Deputy Associate Superintendent for Exceptional Student Services and CCLC

MANAGEMENT TEAM REVIEW: October 8, 2013

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

At its October 2, 2013 meeting the Certification Advisory Committee recommended that the board consider the following changes to R7-2-617. (A), (D), (F).

- R7-2-617.(A) Corrects improper rule citation to state that all certificates are subject to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607 and the renewal requirements in R7-2-619.
- R7-2-617.(D) Repeal the School Psychologist Interim certificate. This certificate was created to address the shortage of school psychologists by providing a pathway to allow clinical psychologists to practice in the schools while completing the requirements for the School Psychologist certificate. However, the number of applicants who have applied for this certificate since it was adopted in 2007 is very low. There is currently only one certificate holder and this person should have the School Psychologist certificate by the end of the year. The proposed rule would go into effect January 1, 2014.
- R7-2-617.(F) Place a moratorium on the Speech Language Technician certificate (SLT). This certificate was created to address the shortage of speech and language pathologists in the field. SLTs are allowed to evaluate and diagnose students with speech and/ or language needs and practice without the supervision of a Master's-level speech language pathologist. Representatives from all of the Arizona universities stated that Bachelor's-level speech-pathology programs do not prepare students to practice independently, and allowing SLTs to practice without supervision and to assess students is unethical. Furthermore, the state universities do not allow Bachelor's-level students to complete 50 hours of speech pathology observation, which is a requirement for the SLT certificate. The shortage of speech-language professionals has been addressed by the creation of a Speech-Language Pathology Assistant license which is issued through the Arizona Department of Health Services. The moratorium would not allow any new applications for the SLT certificate to be received after June 30, 2014.

Proposed Amendments to Rule

The proposed rule change contains modifications to the following sections of the Rule:

- R7-2-617(A) – corrects improper rule citation to appropriate reference
- R7-2-617(D) – repeals the School Psychologist Interim Certificate
- R7-2-617(F) – places a moratorium on new Speech Language Technician Certificates after June 30, 2014

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED: [] INFORMATION [X] ACTION/DESCRIBED

The Board close rulemaking record and adopt proposed rule changes for R7-2-617 regarding Other Professional Certificates.

ATTACHMENTS: YES [X] NO []