

Position Statement

Issuance of a Certification Option to Teacher Licensure

The Coalition of Innovative School Districts (CISD) is seeking a waiver from Kansas Teacher Licensure. The waiver will be sought in those instances when it is difficult to identify appropriate candidates prepared through existing licensure options, or when the district is developing an innovative program outside the scope of current licensure options.

The processes for implementing the waiver will be transparent, including clear procedures to hire the most qualified candidates. The focus for selection will always be on candidates who will make the greatest impact on student learning and future success. When exercising this option, our intent is to be prudent, judicious, and thoughtful as we consider the best pathway to achieve district goals related to student success.

When making decisions about the most qualified applicant, a variety of factors will be considered including licensure, professional degree or certification, professional experience, references, and level of education. The selected candidates will be issued a “certificate” upon approval of the local school board and CISD board. The “certificate” is effective for a one-year period, renewable upon local board approval, and is not transferrable to any other Kansas school district.

Certified teachers are held to meet the same performance standards and will be evaluated following the same evaluation procedures established for fully licensed teachers. Examining the impact on student achievement and effective teaching practice is of great importance. CISD will explicitly report, on a bi-annual basis, on the implementation of the teacher certification process to the local, Coalition, and state boards of education.

CISD is committed to work with the State Board of Education, Kansas State Department of Education, Deans from schools of education within Kansas, Kansas National Education Association, and local education associations to identify best practice and recommend additional avenues for ensuring recruitment and retention of the most qualified teachers in Kansas schools.