

2021 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 2

AMEND IDAHO CODE TO REQUIRE THAT CANDIDATES ON AN INTERIM CERTIFICATE CANNOT BE PLACED ON A RENEWABLE CONTRACT UNTIL RESPECTIVE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ARE MET

WHEREAS, Idaho IDAPA Rule as established by the State Board of Education allows the school board of a local district or charter school to employ personnel on a three-year interim certificate while earning full state certification; and

WHEREAS, personnel who wish to earn full state certification may utilize the interim certificate while earning such certification through “alternative authorization” programs that include Non-Traditional routes; and

WHEREAS, many districts and schools rely on employees who are on “alternative authorizations” to fill a position or program need, including rural districts where finding qualified candidates is particularly challenging; and

WHEREAS, alternative authorization programs are designed to be completed within three consecutive years, and all non-traditional programs require a mentor during the three-year interim certificate; and

WHEREAS, such completion is followed with an “institutional recommendation” from a university or a “district recommendation” from a school district, each confirming successful preparation that qualifies the candidate for full state certification; and

WHEREAS, individual school districts and charter schools differ in their ability to provide required mentoring and other needed support in a three-year period of time; and some candidates need additional time to complete the requirements; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 33-515 requires that a teacher who has completed three consecutive years with the same school district is to be placed on a renewable contract with the school district in accordance with such code; and

WHEREAS, these teachers include those on an interim certificate; and

WHEREAS, movement to a renewable contract is inherent to the professional preparation, responsibility, and expectation required of program completion; and

WHEREAS, a candidate who has not completed the respective program requirements within the three-year timeframe of the interim certificate has not met expectations for movement to a renewable contract.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association seek legislation that would allow a school board to retain on a Category III contract any employee who has not completed alternative authorization program requirements while on a three-year interim certificate. Movement to a renewable contract would occur upon

the completion of the school year in which the candidate successfully completes his or her respective program and is granted a full state certificate.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In accordance with Idaho Code 33-515, an employee on a three-year interim certificate who has not met program requirements for a full Idaho certificate or endorsement is placed on a renewable contract in the same manner as any other teacher who has completed 3 consecutive years with the same school district. Given the nature of interim programs, it is possible more than three years may be needed for an employee to complete the interim program even with due diligence from both parties. "Holding" an employee who has not met the requirements during the three years on a Category I, II, or III contract allows additional time to "grow" the teacher as program requirements intend. As interim-certificated employees progress to a renewable contract, this provides parity with those employees who possess full certificates and are also on a Category I, II, or III contract progressing toward a renewable contract.

Submitted by Butte County Joint School District No. 111

Recommendation of the ISBA Executive Board: Do Pass

Ken Hart will address the ISBA Executive Board's Recommendation