

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1228

6
7 H.P. 871

House of Representatives, April 9, 1985

8 Reference to the Committee on Education suggested and ordered printed.

9 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

10 Presented by Representative Bost of Orono.

Cosponsored by Speaker Martin of Eagle Lake, Senator Pearson of Penobscot and Representative Crouse of Caribou.

11
12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Provide for State Certification of
18 School Administrators.
19

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §13011, sub-§§3-A and 3-B are
23 enacted to read:

24 3-A. Principal certification. The state board
25 rules shall recognize at least 2 categories of prin-
26 cipal certification as recognized in sections 13022
27 to 13025.

28 3-B. Superintendent certification. The state
29 board rules shall recognize at least 2 categories of
30 superintendent certification as identified in sec-
31 tions 13026 to 13028.

32 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §§13022 to 13029 are enacted
33 to read:

1 §13022. Principal certificate

2 1. Definition. A principal certificate, or oth-
3 er name designated by rule, is the entry level cer-
4 tificate issued to an individual who has not previ-
5 ously been a principal in the State.

6 2. Qualifications. State board rules governing
7 the qualifications for a principal certificate shall
8 require that a certificate may be issued only to an
9 applicant who, at a minimum:

10 A. Has either:

11 (1) Taught for 2 years under a professional
12 or master teacher certificate;

13 (2) Had equivalent instructional experience
14 as determined by the commissioner; or

15 (3) Completed a master's degree in educa-
16 tion or administration or the equivalent as
17 determined by the commissioner;

18 B. Has completed 1/2 the credit hours toward a
19 master's degree in education, administration or
20 the equivalent as determined by the commissioner;
21 and

22 C. Has demonstrated in accordance with state
23 board rules a basic level of knowledge in the
24 following areas:

25 (1) Community relations;

26 (2) School finance and budget;

27 (3) Supervision and evaluation of person-
28 nel;

29 (4) Federal and state civil rights and edu-
30 cation laws;

31 (5) Organizational theory and planning;

32 (6) Educational leadership;

- 1 (7) Educational philosophy and theory;
- 2 (8) Effective instruction;
- 3 (9) Curriculum development;
- 4 (10) Staff development; and
- 5 (11) Other competency areas as determined
- 6 by state board rule.

7 3. Endorsement. The principal certificate shall
8 be issued with an endorsement which specifies specific
9 grades which the principal is deemed qualified to
10 administer. A holder of a principal certificate may
11 not be responsible for administering grades or
12 schools outside his area of endorsement unless he has
13 received a waiver from the commissioner in accordance
14 with state board rules.

15 4. Two-year limit. The principal certificate
16 may be issued for a 2-year period and may be extended
17 for one additional year on the recommendation of the
18 support system in accordance with section 13029 and
19 the approval of the superintendent and the commis-
20 sioner.

21 §13023. Senior principal certificate

22 1. Definition. A senior principal certificate,
23 or other name designated by rule, is a renewable cer-
24 tificate issued to an individual who has held a prin-
25 cipal certificate and has met the qualifications of
26 this section.

27 2. Qualifications. State board rules governing
28 the qualifications for a senior principal certificate
29 shall require that the certificate may be issued only
30 to an applicant who, at a minimum:

31 A. Holds a principal certificate or has held a
32 senior principal certificate which has expired
33 within the last 5 years;

34 B. Has been a principal or assistant principal
35 for 2 consecutive academic years;

1 C. Has completed a master's degree in education,
2 administration or the equivalent as determined by
3 the commissioner;

4 D. Has demonstrated in accordance with state
5 board rules an intermediate level of knowledge in
6 the following areas:

7 (1) Community relations;

8 (2) School finance and budget;

9 (3) Supervision and evaluation of person-
10 nel;

11 (4) Federal and state civil rights and edu-
12 cation laws;

13 (5) Organizational theory and planning;

14 (6) Educational leadership;

15 (7) Educational philosophy and theory;

16 (8) Effective instruction;

17 (9) Curriculum development;

18 (10) Staff development; and

19 (11) Other competency areas as determined
20 by state board rule; and

21 E. Has received a recommendation to the superin-
22 tendent and commissioner by an approved support
23 system pursuant to section 13029.

24 §13024. Endorsements

25 The principal certificate shall be issued with an
26 endorsement which specifies specific grades which the
27 principal is deemed qualified to administer. A hold-
28 er of a principal certificate may not be responsible
29 for administering grades or schools outside his area
30 of endorsement unless he has received a waiver from
31 the commissioner in accordance with state board
32 rules.

1 §13025. Renewal of senior principal certificate

2 A senior principal certificate issued in accord-
3 ance with this chapter may be renewed pursuant to
4 state board rules which shall include, but not be
5 limited to, the positive recommendation of the sup-
6 port system in accordance with section 13029.

7 §13026. Superintendent certificate

8 1. Definition. A superintendent certificate, or
9 other name designated by rule, is the entry level
10 certificate issued to an individual who has not pre-
11 viously been a superintendent in the State.

12 2. Qualifications. State board rules governing
13 the qualifications for a superintendent certificate
14 shall require that a certificate may be issued only
15 to an applicant who, at a minimum:

16 A. Has been a principal for 2 consecutive aca-
17 demie years under a senior principal certificate
18 or had the equivalent experience in accordance
19 with state board rules;

20 B. Has completed a master's degree in education,
21 administration or the equivalent as determined by
22 the commissioner; and

23 C. Has demonstrated in accordance with state
24 board rules an advance level of knowledge in the
25 following areas:

26 (1) Community relations;

27 (2) School finance and budget;

28 (3) Supervision and evaluation of person-
29 nel;

30 (4) Federal and state civil rights and edu-
31 cation laws;

32 (5) Organizational theory and planning;

33 (6) Educational leadership;

1 (7) Educational philosophy and theory;

2 (8) Effective instruction;

3 (9) Curriculum development;

4 (10) Staff development; and

5 (11) Other competency areas as determined
6 by state board rule.

7 3. Two-year limit. The superintendent certifi-
8 cate may be issued for a 2-year period and may be ex-
9 tended for one additional year on the positive recom-
10 mendation of the support system in accordance with
11 section 13029 and the approval of the commissioner.

12 §13027. Senior superintendent certificate

13 1. Definition. A senior superintendent certifi-
14 cate, or other name designated by rule, is a renew-
15 able certificate issued to an individual who has held
16 a superintendent certificate and has met the qualifi-
17 cations of this section.

18 2. Qualifications. State board rules governing
19 the qualifications for a senior superintendent cer-
20 tificate shall require that the certificate may be
21 issued only to an applicant who, at a minimum:

22 A. Holds a superintendent certificate or has
23 held a senior superintendent certificate which
24 has expired within the last 5 years;

25 B. Has been a superintendent or assistant super-
26 intendent for 2 consecutive academic years; and

27 C. Has received a positive recommendation to the
28 commissioner by an approved support system pursu-
29 ant to section 13029.

30 §13028. Renewal of superintendent certificate

31 A superintendent certificate issued in accordance
32 with this chapter may be renewed pursuant to state
33 board rules which shall include, but not be limited
34 to, the positive recommendation of the support system
35 in accordance with section 13029.

1 §13029. Support system

2 1. Employment. No public school or private
3 school approved for tuition purposes under section
4 2901, subsection 2, paragraph B, may employ an admin-
5 istrator unless it has an approved, locally designed,
6 support system or has received specific authorization
7 from the commissioner in accordance with state board
8 rules.

9 2. Purpose. The purpose of an approved support
10 system is to :

11 A. Provide strong support services for develop-
12 ing good administrative and school leadership
13 skills to administrators;

14 B. Provide assistance, review and evaluation of
15 progress of the administrator action plan to all
16 administrators who are candidates for a higher
17 level of certification or wish to renew a senior
18 level certificate; and

19 C. Provide an annual evaluation of progress of
20 the administrator action plan.

21 3. Membership. The school board of the school
22 administrative unit shall select the support team in
23 accordance with state board rules.

24 4. Administrator action plan. An administrator
25 action plan is developed by the support system in
26 consultation with the administrator. The action plan
27 shall be considered an employee record and shall be
28 kept confidential in accordance with sections 6101
29 and 6102.

30 5. Approval. Each administrative unit's support
31 system is subject to approval by the commissioner.

32 6. School administrative unit evaluation. The
33 support system is separate from local practices and
34 procedures regarding the supervision and evaluation
35 of an administrator for retention by an administra-
36 tive unit.

1 7. State board rules. The state board shall de-
2 velop rules governing this section.

3 STATEMENT OF FACT

4 As part of the educational reforms of 1984, the
5 111th Legislature upgraded the certification stan-
6 dards for teachers. A central part of the certifica-
7 tion process was the establishment of locally based
8 support systems. If the school administration is to
9 play the role designed for them in the support team
10 process and in the evaluation of teachers for promo-
11 tion and retention, well qualified administrators are
12 crucial.

13 Increasing the standards of administrator certi-
14 fication is a necessary outgrowth of increasing the
15 certification standards of teachers. Improvement in
16 the certification standards of one is dependent on
17 improvement in standards of the other. Improvement
18 in the quality of education for students is dependent
19 on both the quality of teachers and the quality of
20 educational leadership in the schools.

21 This bill establishes a 2-level certification of
22 principals and superintendents. It sets basic stan-
23 dards for each level and a support team to assess the
24 strengths and weaknesses of a candidate applying for
25 a renewal of a certificate or a higher level certifi-
26 cate. It also provides for an action plan to specify
27 the criteria the principal or superintendent must
28 meet for certification. These certification proce-
29 dures will be part of the new certification statutes
30 passed in the 111th Legislature which will become ef-
31 fective on July 1, 1988. The State Board of Educa-
32 tion already must make rules for the Maine Revised
33 Statutes, Title 20-A, chapter 502 by April 1, 1988.

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