

Human Resources Grade Reconfiguration Update

The Human Resources Department continues to plan for the grade configuration change that will occur in the fall of 2009. Approximately 30% of the necessary movement of teachers in the district has occurred through the voluntary transfer process, and we remain committed to facilitating voluntary movement throughout the district. The bulk of the movement will occur this year. Classified employees, we are planning for you, too, and will be in touch about implications of these plans very soon.

TEACHERS: WHERE CAN YOU TEACH WITH YOUR CURRENT LICENSE?

Rules for teacher licensing remain the same under No Child Left Behind's definitions of highly qualified teachers.

- A teacher with an elementary teaching license can teach 6th grade in a middle school.
- A 6th grade teacher who is teaching general elementary must meet the elementary requirements to be highly qualified.
- A 6th grade teacher in a middle school who is teaching a content area may meet **either** the elementary **or** the secondary requirements to be highly qualified.
- A 6th grade teacher who **also** teaches any 7th or 8th grade content classes must have a secondary content license.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME HIGHLY QUALIFIED IN ANOTHER AREA?

Obtaining the proper license, endorsement, or highly qualified status is the first step toward a voluntary transfer. Remember, there are many ways to become highly qualified to teach in another area:

- A college degree with a major in the area in which you teach.
- Passing the PLACE or PRAXIS test in the area in which you teach.
- 24 semester hours in any combination of college credit or staff development/professional classes.
- Achieving "highly qualified status" in a core academic subject in another Colorado public school.

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES AT JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

We have planned an in-service day for all junior high school classified employees for Thursday, October 30. Topics will relate to the early adolescent and grade reconfiguration.

Bring an artifact from your own adolescence.

WE WANT TO HELP YOU IN THIS TRANSITION

- **We have money from a grant for you to take content area exams or classes to ensure proper licensure.** You will find the transcript review forms and the reimbursement request forms on the website and the document library. Please think ahead and have us review your transcripts so you can sign up for what you need.
- **We have planned the first résumé and interviewing refresher course for Monday, October 20.** Additional classes will be scheduled as necessary.
- **We are organizing PLACE/PRAXIS exam preparation assistance.** Watch for more information.
- **If there is a need, we will continue to have meetings to help keep you informed of the latest reconfiguration news.** Please watch your email for information about these meetings.

Helpful websites:

Human Resources www.psdschools.org/intranet/departments/hr/nclb.aspx CDE www.cde.state.co.us
PLACE exam www.place.nesinc.com/index.asp PRAXIS exam www.ets.org/praxis
Center on Early Adolescence www.earlyadolescence.org/node/72
National Middle School Association www.nmsa.org/

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