

Administrative Memo

TO: School Administrators

FROM: Stacey Preis, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services

DATE: March 22, 2016

SUBJECT: LS-16-001 – Highly Qualified Teacher

Passage of the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA) requires states to make decisions regarding the continued use of “Highly Qualified Teacher” (HQT) standards. Many districts have requested advice on HQT to guide their hiring practices for 2016-17. The DESE is intending to remove the requirements of HQT beginning with the 2016-17 school year.

We are reviewing administrative rules and will begin the process of changing those documents to comply with this decision. While the rulemaking process may take up to a year to finalize, districts do not need to wait for that process to be completed since administrative rules are being changed to align with current federal statute.

Please note the following:

- The State must still report HQT results for the 2015-16 school year.
- Districts are expected to meet the requirements of HQT for the remainder of this school year--including the requirement to notify parents of children in Title I schools if their child is to be taught four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not a HQT.
- State certification requirements must still be met and can be found in Exhibit 10 of the Core Data Missouri Student Information System (MOSIS) Reference Manual.”
- Under ESSA, teachers must still be certified in the subject area(s) and grade level(s) in which they are teaching.

Additional information regarding ESSA requirements will be coming soon, but we know this is an issue of immediate concern to districts.

For questions or additional information, please contact Margery Tanner, Director Educator Certification, at margery.tanner@dese.mo.gov or (573) 751-0051.