

Hot topic in education: Teacher licensure addressed by Miles

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

Superintendent Bret Miles recently discussed the happenings on teacher licensure at the state level that could likely result in legislation this spring.

The information was presented as a hot topic in education at the Dec. 3 meeting of the Re-1J Board of Education. Miles said he anticipates sharing other hot topics in the future, with graduation requirements scheduled for next month.

Senator Mike Johnston (D-north Denver area) had a teacher licensure bill last year, but it was pulled with pressure from Rural Caucus, CASE and CASB. The primary resistance was that it was too late in the session to give it the appropriate amount of time and attention.

This fall, Johnston convened the LEAD Compact, a 33-member group that was put together to have many perspectives on teacher licensure. Miles said a majority of the group is comprised of legislators, special interest groups and foundations.

Miles cited three areas when looking at the main issues with last year's bill and what they expect in a bill this year. Those areas are: tying evaluations to licensure, induction programs, and teacher applicant pool and licensure paths.

While it is somewhat undetermined at this time, last year's bill directly tied the evaluation performance level to getting a teaching license renewed. It was interpreted to mean that if a teacher was deemed ineffective on two consecutive evaluations, they would lose their license.

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