

Memo

To: Colorado School Districts
From: Kelly Rosensweet: Charter School Support Coordinator, Schools of Choice
Date: July 11, 2013
Re: Innovation Schools Seeking a Waiver from Teacher Licensure

Our office thought it would be helpful to provide some clarification to Innovation Schools considering seeking a waiver from teacher licensure (*C.R.S 22-63-201*). Although Innovation schools are allowed to seek this waiver, there are still Federal requirements in regard to licensure that must be considered.

If a district accepts NCLB Title funds, all core content teachers in all schools must meet the federal Highly Qualified (HQ) requirements. For a teacher to be HQ, the teacher must have a valid Colorado license and subject matter competency for their assignment. (NCLB § 1119)

Federal law provides for the licensing component of HQ to be waived for charter schools. **The federal law, however, does not provide for the license component to be waived for Innovative Schools. (NCLB § 9109(23)(A)).** Accordingly, all core content teachers in Innovative Schools must hold a valid Colorado teaching license in order to be HQ.

Thus, the licensure waiver is of minimal benefit to Innovative schools as core content teachers will still need to hold teaching licenses. The waiver will apply only to non-core content teachers (i.e. PE, business, computers). Innovative schools should be aware of the waivers limitations and plan accordingly.

Additional guidance on Innovation Schools can be found on our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/choice/innovationschools.asp>

Additional guidance on Highly Qualified can be found on our website at http://www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/tii/a_hqt.asp

Please direct any questions regarding Innovation Schools to:

Kelly Rosensweet, Charter School Support Coordinator
Innovation and Choice Office
(303) 866-6848
Rosensweet_K@cde.state.co.us