

Teacher Certification Fees

APPLICABLE STATUTES

These sections provide the statutes that are applicable for teacher certification fees. The first is the statute that pertains directly to the fees, and the subsequent statutes provide details about the certification standards and practices advisory council referenced in the first statute.

20-4-109. Fees for teacher and specialist certificates.

(1) A person applying for the issuance or renewal of a teacher or specialist certificate shall pay a fee not to exceed \$6 for each school fiscal year that the certificate is valid. In addition to this fee, a person who has never held any class of Montana teacher or specialist certificate or for whom an emergency authorization of employment has never been issued shall pay a filing fee of \$6. The fees must be paid to the superintendent of public instruction, who shall deposit the fees with the state treasurer to the credit of the state special revenue fund account, created in subsection (2), to be used in the following manner:

- (a) \$4 for expenses of the certification standards and practices advisory council created in 2-15-1522;
- (b) \$2 to the board of public education and the certification standards and practices advisory council for activities in support of the constitutional and statutory duties of the board of public education and the certification standards and practices advisory council.

(2) There is an account in the state special revenue fund. Money from fees for teacher or specialist certificates required in subsection (1) must be deposited in the account.

2-15-1522. Certification standards and practices advisory council.

(1) There is a certification standards and practices advisory council allocated to the board of public education.

(2) The council consists of seven members appointed by majority vote of the board of public education. The membership of the council must include:

- (a) three teachers engaged in classroom teaching, including:
 - (i) one who teaches within kindergarten through grade 8;
 - (ii) one who teaches within grades 9 through 12; and
 - (iii) one additional teacher from any category in subsection (2)(a) or (2)(b);
- (b) one person employed as a specialist or K-12 specialist;
- (c) one faculty member from an approved teacher education program offered by an accredited teacher education institution;
- (d) one person employed as an administrator, with the certification required in 20-4-106(1)(c); and
- (e) one school district trustee.

(3) The board of public education shall select and appoint the members by June 1. If a vacancy occurs on the council, the board of public education shall appoint a person from the category of membership, as provided in subsection (2), in which the vacancy has occurred to serve the unexpired term.

(4) Members shall serve staggered 3-year terms and must be appointed so that no more than three appointments expire in any 1 year.

20-4-133. Duties of the council.

(1) The council shall study and make recommendations to the board of public education in the following areas:

(a) teacher certification standards, including but not limited to precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;

(b) administrator certification standards, including but not limited to precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;

(c) specialist certification standards, including but not limited to precertification training and education requirements and certification renewal requirements and procedures;

(d) feasibility of establishing standards of professional practices and ethical conduct;

(e) the status and efficacy of approved teacher education programs in Montana; and

(f) policies related to the denial, suspension, and revocation of teacher, administrator, and specialist certification and the appeals process. For the purpose of preparing recommendations in this area, the council is authorized to review the individual cases and files that have been submitted to the board of public education.

(2) The council shall submit a written report annually to the board of public education with its recommendations for the above areas. The council may submit recommendations to the board of public education at other times that the council considers appropriate.

(3) The board of public education shall:

(a) at a regularly scheduled meeting, consider any recommendations and reports of the council; and

(b) approve, disapprove, or modify each recommendation of the council by majority vote of the board.