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Public Schools

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MEMO

Date: 3/11/2021

To: Dr. Ed Condon, *Superintendent*

From: Dr. Alison Hawley, *Director of Curriculum and Instruction*

RE: Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards

Background

On February 17, 2021, Dr. Carmen Ayala, Illinois State Superintendent of Education, announced the adoption of the *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards*. The newly revised document, previously entitled *Illinois Professional Teaching Standards*, is the result of collaborative efforts among the Illinois General Assembly, State and District leaders, and educators from across the State. The standards took shape over the course of two years, incorporating public comment and feedback to shape the final version. Beginning October 1, 2021, teacher educator programs will be required to incorporate the standards into their course selections in order to issue Illinois Professional Educator Licenses.

Overview

The *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards* recognize the diversity of students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and are intended to support future teachers in meeting the needs of all students in Illinois regardless of background or lived experience. The Illinois State Board of Education highlighted the impact they expected the standards to have on the preparation of future educators:

- Assist teachers in engaging and connecting with students from different backgrounds
- Improve student outcomes to close achievement gaps
- Support students to be leaders and advocates in their communities
- Enhance inclusive practices to combat the teacher shortage in Illinois
- Support future educators to see how their own backgrounds and lived experiences impact their instructional practices

The *Culturally Responsive Teaching and Leading Standards* have been well-received by State educators, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, and the Illinois Education Association. Teacher educator programs are expected to provide the Illinois State Board of Education with program alignment plans by October 1, 2025.