

Memorandum of Understanding
COHE/BOR Special Schools Agreement

The Association for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) is no longer the certifying body for vision professionals. A new entity, Association for the Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP), also known as “the Academy” has been established as the certifying body. This body certifies vision rehabilitation therapists, low vision specialists, and orientation and mobility specialists. There is no certification for teachers of the visually impaired as most states have their own vision certification. Although South Dakota teachers may add an endorsement in vision, it is only 18 credits.

The SDSBVI endorses ACVREP’s professional development goals of:

- Obtain information on current trends
- Explore new technologies
- Develop balanced professional judgment and enhance critical skills
- Acquire knowledge in specific focus areas.

Contract salary provisions in 17.1 (2) include an annual allocation of \$1,000 for each member maintaining certification through ACVREP or Certification of Clinical Competence from the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA). This memorandum is intended to clarify what will constitute certification for purposes of this section of the contract.

For those faculty members who elect to be certified in Orientation and Mobility or Low Vision, the ACVREP will be the certification body. The ACVREP five-year certification fee will be reimbursed at the AER membership rate through regular payroll upon proof of payment to ACVREP. If a faculty member maintains certification in both areas, they will receive compensation for the certification fee for each endorsement. The SDSBVI will compensate a faculty member for the initial testing fee of \$100. For ASHA certification, the SDSBVI will compensate the faculty member for the annual certification fee.

For teachers of the visually impaired the following criteria will be used:

- A. Maintain a SD teacher’s certification with endorsement as a teacher of the visually impaired.
- B. Provide proof of membership in AER or CEC-DVI to the personnel office.
- C. Maintain and submit an annual log of professional development activities. A faculty member must provide documentation of at least 20 points each year from at least two activity areas. A list of possible activities is included as Attachment 1. This documentation will be tied to the annual individual professional development section of the evaluation.

APPENDIX G – ATTACHMENT 1

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES
BOR/COHE ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION**

ACTIVITY	POINT VALUE	VERIFICATION	CRITERIA	EXAMPLES*
Continuing Education CEU or DOE credit	1 day = 5 points	Certificate of completion	Must be related to VI <u>or</u> relevant to teaching assignment	AER continuing education seminar or tele-seminar; workshop
University credit	1 sem. hour=10 points	Transcript	Must be related to VI <u>or</u> relevant to teaching assignment	Courses through NSU Seminars offered for credit
Professional Conference	1 day = 5 points	Copy of registration or receipt/ certificate of attendance	Must be related to VI <u>or</u> relevant to teaching assignment	AER state, regional or national conference.
Professional Presentation	1 clock hr. of presentation = 10 points	Printed agenda or program and outline of presentation	Invited or refereed presentation or relevant to <u>professional role</u>	Presenting at a conference, university class or other group
Professional Service	1 clock hr. = 1 point	Letter of verification of service or documentation of office held in the organization	Offices or voluntary service related to VI or related organizations	Serving as officer or board member of an AER chapter, chairing a committee or volunteering at a summer camp
Mentorship/Supervision	5 wks.= 10 pts	Copy of letter of assignment confirming dates and duration	Graduate or undergraduate student assigned a minimum of 12 hours per week	Supervising student teachers, interns etc.
Peer Observation	1 hr. = 1 point	Observation schedule signed by supervisor	Observation of a teacher, O & M or vision specialist	Colleague, optometrist, or vision related field
Publication in a Newsletter	1 article =10 points	Copy of article	Must be related to blindness or relevant to professional role	Newsletter article for Pioneer, outreach news, Professional newsletter

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Curriculum Development	1 hr =1 point	Title page of curriculum showing authorship	Project must be approved by the Principal and Curriculum Committee	Developing a curriculum guide for use of a low vision device, updating a standard curriculum.
Education Project	1 project = up to 20 points	Pre-approved by the principal	Points value to be determined at the time of approval	Developing an original piece of adaptive equipment, research project
Publication of article or book chapter	1 article or chapter = 20 pts.	Publishers letter of acceptance or table of contents	Peer reviewed article or book chapter or agency published booklet	Article in RE:view, booklet about eye conditions
Publication of a book	1 book = 100 pts.	Publishers letter of acceptance or table of contents	Book must be available for purchase and contribute to knowledge in the field; must be in access of 60 pages.	Having a book published