

The SDE reports the agency has submitted a plan to the U.S. Department of Education that includes identifying measurable objectives for meeting the requirements of NCLB, and its Title II Unit is working with school districts to collect the necessary data.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The issue of sanctions for non-compliance with teacher certification rules poses some interesting dilemmas for SDE, school districts and teachers. There is shortage of “qualified” teachers, especially in areas such as math, science, bilingual education and special education. Instructors staff some of these classrooms and are not endorsed for their assignments. But, the district has filled the position with the “best” available person. Should either the district or the teacher be penalized for this? SDE currently has rules and procedures in place that will allow teachers unendorsed for their teaching assignment to work toward full certification while being full-time teachers. Would these individuals be sanctioned?

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What kind of sanctions could be imposed on a school district? A teacher?
2. Has the SDE developed a set of guidelines regarding the sanctioning of a school district or teacher?
3. Should a school district be sanctioned because it can't find qualified teachers?

LRB/ls