



August 8, 2023

Executive Director Rebecca Pitkin
Education Standards and Practices Board
2718 Gateway Ave #204
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Executive Director Pitkin and members of the Education Standards and Practices Board,

On July 27, our administration received a request from the Education Standards and Practices Board for approval of emergency rulemaking to amend North Dakota Administrative Rule 67.1-02-01 regarding requirements for student teachers to be the teacher of record.

State leaders, superintendents, school boards and administrators all recognize that the pipeline for teacher applicants has severely diminished and that focused district-by-district strategies to recruit and retain talent and inspire our young people to enter the education profession are essential. We also know the teacher shortage is not affecting all districts equally: Of 167 public school districts in North Dakota, more than 75 districts have **all** teaching positions for 2023-24 filled, according to data provided by ESPB.

Our administration has reviewed the request pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 28-32-03, sought and received input from districts across the state, and agrees that emergency rulemaking is reasonably necessary. Therefore, your request is granted. As the ESPB executive director has stated, this is a Band-Aid, not a permanent solution. This emergency action simply gives local school boards and administrators additional flexibility and retains local control in determining how to fill teacher openings with the best interests of students in mind.

In addition, our administration will be developing a statewide task force through executive order that will focus on teacher recruitment and retention strategies, programs and policies with the necessary voices around the table, including representation from the local level. With support of a facilitator, this task force will have a very clear purpose: to identify policies and practices that will help establish a pipeline of quality professional educators who receive the support they need to be their best so that our students receive the world-class, taxpayer-efficient education they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Burgum".

Doug Burgum
Governor