

Opinion Statement on AB49 01-27-2025 published on NELIS

In regards to AB49, as a current business and industry (B&I) teacher completing my provisions who was initially hired as a substitute, I strongly support the proposed revision to NRS 391 Section 1, Part 2. Allowing teachers to be hired prior to license approval or starting as substitutes is a necessary improvement. However, using the term "provisionally" may cause confusion since B&I teachers are already hired with provisions they must complete. To avoid this, a term like "probationally" might better distinguish this context.

I also support waiving the application fee for individuals who apply to teach within one year of substitute teaching. This change reduces financial barriers and may also encourage more individuals to try substitute teaching before pursuing licensure through B&I or the Alternative Path to Licensure (APL). Personally, I was unaware of the B&I pathway when I began as a substitute, so this revision would have been a valuable resource.

Regarding Section 1, Part 4, I support updates to CTE program categories but have encountered challenges. For instance, despite teaching computer science for two years and having prior work experience, I am required to obtain a new endorsement due to curriculum updates and will have to pay new fees even though my current endorsement has not expired. The process should be more flexible and better account for prior qualifications and experience.

Finally, in Section 2, Part 5, I recommend rewording to clarify that applicants should not have to re-verify previously approved work experience or provide more explicit definition of allowable proof. In its current rendition, verification must be submitted from someone currently working at the prior employer. This unfairly excludes applicants who have worked for small companies that may have closed or who have been self employed in the industry who should only have to show their tax returns.

Respectfully,

Dr. Alice Vo Edwards