

Remarks of Luke Hodge
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Before the State Dept. of Education and State Board of Education
concerning the proposed changes to certification in Teacher Leader

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Good afternoon. My name is Luke Hodge and I'm a math teacher in Region 15.

I enjoy teaching very much. We have many excellent teachers, but I am certainly in favor of any steps that would improve the quality of the teachers in our schools and attract high caliber people to the profession.

That said, I am opposed to any increase in the number of college credits in education courses required for certification in any capacity. There is ample evidence that advanced education degrees, national board certification, etc. have no impact on student achievement. We should be focusing on making the profession more attractive and accessible to the serious minded, not creating bureaucratic obstacles in the form of the often light weight education courses that have no connection to actual classroom dynamics and content.

I do not want teacher leaders determined by who is willing to spend the time and money to plow through a pile of education classes. It almost seems like these are the people we would not want to be teacher leaders. I would much rather have a teacher

leader that is knowledgeable in his or her content area and has demonstrated effective teaching than someone with an additional certificate.

The following are just two of the many studies available on the ineffectiveness of education degrees and certifications on student achievement.

<http://www.gatesfoundation.org/united-states/Documents/best-practices-teach-effectiveness.pdf>

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/publications/quickreviews/QRReport.aspx?QRID=114>

Thank you for your time.