



Minnesota Board of Teaching

TO: Minnesota Colleges and Universities approved to offer teacher licensure programs
FROM: Erin Doan, Interim Executive Director
DATE: April 8, 2016
RE: **Kindergarten endorsement licensure option**

On April 8, 2016 the Minnesota Board of Teaching approved the resolution included on page 2 of this memo. As a result of the resolution, the Educator Licensing Division at MDE will have the authority to issue a kindergarten license (as an endorsement to a 1-6 elementary license) to applicants who are recommended by an approved Minnesota college or university. To apply for approval to offer a kindergarten endorsement program, the college or university must submit a written request to the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Teaching to waive MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3. Courses shall be provided to candidates who hold a 1-6 license and seek to add kindergarten to the scope.

Application process:

1. The unit leader submits a written request to the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Teaching to waive MN Rule 8710.0550, subpart 3, in order to offer a methods course for kindergarten licensure.

The waiver request must include:

- Attestation that the kindergarten methods course will only be offered to teachers licensed for elementary grades 1-6.
 - The duration of request, including the duration of the course and time period when candidates will be recommended for licensure.
 - The specific dates and duration that the course/program will be offered.
 - Include the specific title of the course and course number, a current syllabus, and the instructor's resume evidencing his/her advanced academic preparation to teach the kindergarten methods course and his/her teaching experience in kindergarten.
 - **A supervised and evaluated practicum in kindergarten is required to be part of the preparation program and should be reflected as a requirement on the syllabus.**
2. The course syllabus will be reviewed and the instructor's qualifications for teaching kindergarten methods will be verified.
 3. Teachers who complete an approved kindergarten methods course must submit the standard licensure endorsement application to MDE Educator Licensing, including the college recommendation for kindergarten, and an unofficial transcript evidencing the completion of the approved kindergarten course, with related processing fees.

This Board resolution will be in effect until June 30, 2018, therefore, teachers must complete the approved kindergarten methods program prior to this date.

To request kindergarten program approval, submit a waiver request addressing the details in item one above to:

Erin Doan, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Teaching
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113
Erin.doan@state.mn.us



Minnesota Board of Teaching

RESOLUTION

Regarding the extension of MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3 provides:

Subp. 3. Kindergarten. Until June 30, 2005, an applicant holding a current entrance or professional elementary teaching license first granted by the Board of Teaching prior to September 1, 2001, shall be granted kindergarten licensure upon submitting evidence of having completed requirements for methods of kindergarten education in a state-approved teacher preparation program at a college or university that is accredited by the regional association for the accreditation of colleges and secondary schools and a recommendation for kindergarten licensure from that college or university.

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3 provides that the provision to add a kindergarten license by licensees licensed prior to 2001 ended on June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Teaching has the authority to waive its rules pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 14.055; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2014 the deadline of this rule was extended to June 30, 2016 by Board resolution; and

WHEREAS, there is a further need to extend the timeline which would allow teachers who hold a 1-6 elementary to be granted a kindergarten license upon submitting evidence of having completed requirements for methods of kindergarten education in a state-approved teacher preparation program; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Teaching resolves to extend the expiration date of 8710.0550 subpart 3 to June 30, 2018, allowing teachers licensed in elementary grades 1-6 to submit evidence of completion of a kindergarten methods course to be eligible to add "kindergarten" to the scope of their elementary license. This resolution also permits approved MN teacher licensure programs to offer the kindergarten methods program and to recommend program completers for the kindergarten endorsement to their elementary license. This resolution will be in effect until June 30, 2018.

April 8, 2016

Date of Adoption

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Beedingham".

Signature of Board Chair