MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Executive Committee

Date: November 13, 2026

Subject: 2027 Legislative Priorities - REPORT

Background

Each year, the Board's Legislative Committee prepares recommendations on legislative priorities to be added to the Board's legislative agenda. The full list of priorities can be found in the Board's bylaws.

Over the past three years, a majority of the Board's proposals have been formally adopted into law, including:

- Eliminating content and pedagogy exams for teachers who have already completed teacher preparation (Meeting the Needs of Minnesota's Students and Schools).
- Creating a heritage language licensure pathway program (Meeting the Needs of Minnesota's Students and Schools).
- Brining Minnesota into compliance with federal law requirements for special education (Meeting the Needs of Minnesota's Students and Schools).
- Securing a $2.7 million of funding to support IT upgrades (Operational Excellence).
- Moving grants to MDE (operational excellence)

As the Legislative Committee prepares recommendations for the 2027 legislative session, the committee thought it would be helpful to review the current list of board priorities.

Current Board Legislative Priorities

REMOVING BARRIERS TO LICENSURE:

- Eliminate Basic Skills Exam requirements for teachers seeking a Tier 4 license (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Eliminate content and pedagogy exam requirements for teachers who completed teacher preparation in Minnesota or who completed teacher preparation and passed licensure exams in another state (2022, 2023)
- Allow performance assessment (i.e., edTPA) in place of pedagogical exam for teachers seeking a Tier 3 license who have not complete teacher preparation (2019, 2020, 2021, 2023)

- Expand exemptions from a bachelor's degree to include native speakers of a world language and visual and performing artists (2021, 2022)
- Provide funding and support to educators seeking a license in their heritage language (2023)
- Remove the requirement to attempt a content exam for teachers seeking to renew a Tier 1 license (2025)
- Join the Interstate Teacher Mobility Compact (2026)
- Allow enrollment in a state-approved program with equivalent student teaching for tier 2 license (2026)

MEET THE NEEDS OF MN STUDENTS:

- Bring Minnesota into compliance under Part B of the IDEA (2024)
- Support literacy training and mentorship (2024)
- Support teachers to obtain licensure in shortages areas, such as special education (2024)
- Support increased funding, programs, and reporting to help recruit and retain teachers of color (2025)
    - CUGMEC
    - Teacher Mentorship & Retention of Effective Teachers
    - Paid student teaching
- Support funding and programs to support teachers in shortage areas (2025)
- One-time renewal requirements for teachers holding their initial Tier 3 license (2022)
- Ensure training in cultural competency and meeting the needs of multilingual learners is required for all teachers (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- Support the creation of an Education Advisory Group to address AI, High School Redesign, and other future needs (2026)
- Update mental health renewal requirement ("mental illness") (2026)
- Support efforts to enhance ethics processes that protect students (2026)
- Support for K-2 early literacy experience (2026)

ELEVATING THE PROFESSION:

- Remove the Tier 2 to Tier 3 pathway based on three years of teaching experience (2021, 2022, 2023)
- Strengthen Tier 2 requirements to align with content expertise or enrollment in a teacher preparation program (2021, 2022)
- Add mentorship requirements for teachers holding a Tier 1 or Tier 2 license (2021, 2022)
- Additional pathways to Tier 4 – portfolio and national board certification (2024)
- Aligning district TDE with SEPs (2024)
- Support residency programs (2023)
- Support increased educator compensation (2024)
- Support paid student teaching (2024)
- Support bills that seek to make teaching the prestigious, desirable, financially viable, and professionally exciting job that we all know it needs to be to recruit and retain diverse and excellent teachers (2025)
- Support bills that seek to increase opportunities and supports for educators that will translate to improved academic outcomes for multilingual learners (2025)
- Support residency programs (2025)
- Support increased educator compensation (2025)

- Support paid student teaching (2025)

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

- Increase number of board members (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Increase licensure fee from $57 to $85 and add a nominal fee to support IT costs (2021)
- Remove redundant district reports (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Clarify definitions and processes (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Support BOSA taking on licensing duties (2024)
- IT budget to complete licensure system (2024)
- Clarify data collection and reporting responsibilities (2024)
- Allow BIE schools to access the Teacher Mentorship Grant (2024)
- Support literacy supports – including funding, clinical experience, and coaching (2024)
- BOSA funding to support processing of administrative licenses by BOSA (2025)
- Transfer grantmaking duties to MDE (2025)
- Transfer responsibility to administer the paraprofessional credential to MDE (2025)
- Ensure PELSB can accommodate increased costs associated with living adjustments, step increases for staff, and increased reviewer costs (2025)
- Support funding and programs to support teachers in shortage areas (e.g. portfolio cohorts, heritage language pathways programs) (2025)
- Transfer responsibility to administer the paraprofessional credential to MDE (2025, 2026)
- Revise testing accommodations in 122A.185 (2026)
- Eliminate outdated references to licensure exams (2025)
- Remove redundant reporting requirements (2025)

Proposed 2027 Board Legislative Priorities

MEET THE NEEDS OF MN STUDENTS:

- Innovative licensure pathways for special education OFP holders\
- Case load limits and/or protected prep time for special education teachers
- Grant the Board authority to withhold OFPs and Tier 1 licenses for failure to report ethics violations and repeat STAR violations
- Support for policies to better support neurodivergent students

ELEVATING THE PROFESSION:

- Support a Statewide Pilot for SEP-based professional development for Journey Workers

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

- IT Fee to fund new system + maintenance
- Make licensure via portfolio a self-funded program
- Allow some survey data to be private to improve data accuracy
- Revise TMOC language to one vendor

REVISIONS:

- Support the creation of an Education Advisory Group to address ~~AI, High School Redesign, and other~~ future needs (2026)
- Increase licensure fee ~~from $57 to $85 and add a nominal fee~~ to support IT costs (2021)
- ~~Support BOSA taking on licensing duties (2024)~~
- ~~BOSA funding to support processing of administrative licenses by BOSA (2025)~~
- Streamline PELSB and BOSA operations by reducing redundancies and unfunded work

Options:

This is a report. Board members will be asked to vote on legislative priorities in December.