MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

# Board Meeting

9:30 am

February 20, 2026

# Agenda

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda

III. Oral Arguments

IV. Discipline Matters (Closed)

IV. Consent Agenda

V. Public Comment

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Microcredentials
- B. Board Training Summary
- C. Special Education Licensure Advisory Group
- D. Arts Steering Committee Update

VI. New Business

- A. Fiscal Year 2027 Calendar

VII. Reports

VIII. Adjourn

- Call to Order
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# Oral Arguments

MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

# Board is in Closed Session for Discipline Matters

- Call to Order
- Oral Arguments
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# Discipline Report Out

## Dr. Lucy Payne, Chair

Call to Order
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# Consent Agenda

**Please refer to pages 3 and 4 of the Board meeting agenda.**

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# Public Comment

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# Microcredentials

**Dr. Lucy Payne, Board Chair**

# Microcredentials

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## Board Professional Learning Topic, January 22, 2026

- **Current National Landscape**
  - Microcredentials have been growing in education and related fields.
  - The National Education Association offers microcredentials, as do institutions of high education, and non-profit and for profit businesses.
  - Some states are beginning to enact policies around microcredentials.
- **What is PELSB's role in the microcredential space?**
  - **What knowledge do we have? What do we need to learn? Who are our partners in thinking? How could they align with board mission, vision, strategic goals?**

# Microcredentials

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Given the increased interest and use of microcredentials the board needs to consider how to set direction in this area related to licensure. This work aligns with the board's focus on the future of licensure.

Draft bill language for the 2026 session is being written for a Microcredential Task Force. The purpose of the task force would be to consider the benefits of teacher microcredentials and how they can be implemented in Minnesota. As the bill is currently drafted PELSB's executive director would lead this effort.

The board should consider adding this to the legislative platform enabling the executive director to speak to it during session.

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# Board Training Summary

**Amy Aho, Board Vice Chair**

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# Special Education Licensure Advisory Group

**Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director**

# Special Education Licensure Advisory Group: Overview & Charge

**2018 Special Education License Review Work Group & Report**

**2024 Legislative Work Group**

- Work group created by 2024 Legislature to review all special education licensure statutes and rules and make recommendations on how to streamline licensure process
- Work group consisted of special education teachers, administrators, teacher preparation providers, Education Minnesota
- Reviewed tiered licensure and current special education licenses, looked at other states' SPED licenses and reviewed SPED teacher data in Minnesota
- Legislative Report submitted on February 1, 2025

# Special Education Licensure Advisory Group: Overview & Charge

## 2024 Legislative Work Group Recommendations

- Create an ABS (cross-categorical) moderate/severe license
- Move to two main special education licenses (ABS for mild/moderate needs and new moderate/severe license)
- Keep low incident special education areas (DHH, BVI, DAPE and ECSE)

## 2025 Board Subcommittee

At the January 2025 Board meeting, the Board authorized a Special Education Licensure Subcommittee to review the Special Education Workgroup's Recommendations in their report to the Legislature, published on February 1, 2025. That group determined more input was needed, so the Special Education Licensure Advisory Group was formed.

**Charge:** Review policy and research related to special education licensure and make a recommendation on the creation of a new moderate to severe cross-categorical license.

# Special Education Licensure Advisory Group

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**Recommendation:**

- The group was split on the recommendation. **4 out of 8** people do not want changes to the license.
- Of those 4 people, **2 people** recommend the Board pursue 2 cross-categorical, moderate-to-severe licenses (behavioral and developmental) if the Board decides to combine licensure areas. **2 people** recommend 1 cross-categorical, moderate-to-severe licenses.
- The majority recommend not replacing the Physical and Health Disabilities License.
- 4 members recommend not replacing the Learning Disabilities License.
- *If* the Board pursues a cross-categorical license, renewal requirements should include specialized training.

**Concerns:**

- Several group members did not attend meetings, limiting input.
- Too much of the burden may fall on districts. What if they don't have the resources?
- While surveyed ABS teachers feel they are more prepared to work with students with complex needs than their colleagues think they are, about half do not feel adequately prepared to work with this population.
- Unclear this will address retention or shortage concerns.
- What would the scope of new licenses be?

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| Current Licenses | Scope | Potential Licenses |
|---|---|---|
| Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) | K-21 | Academic and Behavioral Strategist (ABS) |
| Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) | Birth-21 | New Moderate to Severe Cross-Categorical License |
| Development Disabilities (DD) | K-12 | |
| Emotional Behavior Disorders (EBD) | K-21 | |
| Learning Disabilities (LD or SLD) | K-21 | |
| Physical and Health Disabilities (PHD) | Birth-21 | Physical and Health Disabilities (PHD) |
| Blind or Visually Impaired (BVI) | Birth-21 | Blind or Visually Impaired (BVI) |
| Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) | Birth-21 | Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHH) |
| Developmental/ Adapted Physical Education (DAPE) | PreK-21 | Developmental/ Adapted Physical Education (DAPE) |
| Oral/Aural Deaf Education | Birth-12 | Oral/Aural Deaf Education |
| Early Childhood Special Ed (ECSE) | Birth-6 | Early Childhood Special Ed (ECSE) |

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# Arts Steering Committee Update

**Max Clark-Vail**
**Alina Campana**
**Steven Rollin**

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# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group Update

Max Clark-Vail, Leadership & Data Specialist, Perpich Center for Arts Education

Alina Campana, Arts Specialist, Minnesota Department of Education

Steven Rollin, PELSB Rulemaking Attorney

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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- In November 2025, the board directed PELSB staff to form a music teacher licensure advisory group (music advisory group) to review the music recommendation previously made by the Arts Licensing and Standards Steering Committee (steering committee) and alternative options. The music advisory group met twice, once to deepen their understanding and a second time to deliberate and make their recommendation.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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The music advisory group considered three options that the PELSB board was asked to consider at the November 2025 meeting:

- **OPTION 1:** Discontinue the K-12 Vocal and Classroom Music and the K-12 Instrumental and Classroom Music licenses and replace them with a single PK-12 Music license with specialization embedded in the standards
- **OPTION 2:** PK-12 General Music License + 2 endorsements (Choir and Band/Orchestra), adding music production, recording arts, and popular music standards into the general music license
- **OPTION 3:** Keep the current licensure structure and change through standards revision only (Add music production, recording arts, and popular music standards into the existing two-license structure)

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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The music advisory group overwhelmingly supported Option 1. This was the unanimous recommendation of the steering committee. It also aligns to PELSB's ad hoc committee recommendation regarding music licensure, as well as the board's approach to streamlining licensure. The full breakdown of the music advisory group's support is below:

- **Option 1:** 10 support, 1 neutral, 0 oppose
- **Option 2:** 2 support, 6 neutral, 3 oppose
- **Option 3:** 0 support, 0 neutral, 11 oppose

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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- An arts steering committee (steering committee) facilitated by PELSB, MDE, and the Perpich Center for Arts Education reviewed structural issues and possible solutions for all arts teaching licenses. This committee met from July 2024 to June 2025.
- In August 2025, the board directed the steering committee facilitators to survey the field to collect more teacher feedback on the steering committee's recommendations. This occurred between September 2025 and November 2025.
- In November 2025, the board considered the steering committee recommendations, survey results, and the board's ad hoc committee recommendation. The board directed staff to form a music teacher licensure advisory group (music advisory group), including the former steering committee music representatives, and asked that this new group be composed primarily of K-12 music teachers currently teaching in the classroom. The goal of this new group would be to review the steering committee's music recommendation and additional options, and provide input and additional recommendations for the board to consider as it makes its decision on PK-12 music licensure.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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Applications to join the music advisory group were sent out to all currently assigned music teachers and additional community partners as relevant. Applications were open between December 15th, 2025, and January 5th, 2026. Applications were reviewed independently and then collaboratively by representatives from MDE, PELSB, and Perpich Center using a point-based system designed to prioritize representation in the following key areas:

- current Human Resources administrator from a Minnesota public school district;
- current unit director or program director of a Minnesota teacher preparation program;
- licensed K-12 vocal music teacher currently teaching choir in a Twin Cities metropolitan area school;
- licensed K-12 vocal music teacher currently teaching choir in a Greater Minnesota school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental music teacher currently teaching band or orchestra in a Twin Cities metropolitan area school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental music teacher currently teaching band or orchestra in a Greater Minnesota school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental or vocal music teacher currently teaching general music in a Twin Cities metropolitan area school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental or vocal music teacher currently teaching general music in a Greater Minnesota school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental or vocal music teacher currently teaching modern band, music production, or recording arts in a Twin Cities metropolitan area school;
- licensed K-12 instrumental or vocal music teacher currently teaching modern band, music production, or recording arts in a Greater Minnesota school; and,
- current representative from a Minnesota charter school.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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The following twelve members were selected for the music advisory group:

| ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Mallory Alekna** | Augsburg University | Assistant Professor of Music, Human Development, and Learning |
| **Max Clifford** | Wayzata Public Schools | Orchestra Director |
| **Josh Danderand** | Fond du Lac Ojibwe School | Music Teacher |
| **David Davis** | St. Louis Park Public Schools | Music Teacher |
| **Rachel Gorden Mercer** | ISD 192 Farmington School District | Middle School Band Director |
| **Kevin Huseth** | Cloquet Public Schools | High School Instrumental teacher |
| **Michael Lipset** | 4 Learning | Executive Director |
| **Aaron Lohmeyer*** | Winona State University | Professor of Music Education & Jazz Band Director |
| **Kim Morford** | ISD 750 ROCORI | K-12 Vocal and General Music |
| **Evan Ronken*** | Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District | Director of Human Resources |
| **Tony Streng** | South Washington County Schools | Music Teacher |
| **Richard Thomas**** | Foley Public Schools | Intermediate Music Teacher |
| | **State Support and Facilitation** | |
| **Yelena Bailey** | Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board | Executive Director |
| **Michael Buck** | Perpich Center for Arts Education | Music Specialist |
| **Alina Campana** | Minnesota Department of Education | Arts Specialist |
| **Max Clark-Vail** | Perpich Center for Arts Education | Leadership & Data Specialist |
| **Lucy Payne** | Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board | Teacher Preparation, Board Chair |
| **Steve Rollin** | Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board | Rulemaking Attorney |

*These members were not required to submit an application. Aaron Lohmeyer was a music representative from the former steering committee, and Evan Ronken was invited as a Human Resources representative.
**This member was unable to attend the deliberation and voting meeting.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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The arguments from the advisory group **in favor of option 1** include:

- the need for broader pathways that would allow more students to make more music, especially those not drawn to traditional ensembles;
- The opportunity to expand what music teachers can teach (such as music production, popular music, modern band, etc);
- Removing barriers to licensure for teacher candidates from musical backgrounds other than band, orchestra, and choir;
- reducing inequities between large and small schools and districts;
- alignment with other states where single licenses work effectively;
- the need for teacher discretion to respond to their school communities and student interests;
- stronger job protection during layoffs because teachers can be assigned to more classes; and,
- realizing that specialization also occurs during field experiences, internships, and student teaching, not just in teacher preparation coursework.

The arguments **against option 1** include:

- Concern that administrators could assign teachers to areas where they do not feel fully qualified or comfortable teaching.
- Preparing teachers across additional musical areas, traditions, and approaches may water down collegiate curricula or lead to lower-performing K-12 school ensembles.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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Comments on **option 2** noted that it would provide a manageable core license with optional endorsements for deeper specialization in the areas of band/orchestra and choir. However, the advisory group also noted that:

- endorsements would require extra coursework, which could discourage future band/choir/orchestra teachers,
- higher education institutions may not offer endorsement pathways due to budgetary restrictions, thus restricting the pipeline for those with specialization in band/orchestra and choir; and
- endorsements would also add restrictions regarding who could be assigned to band, orchestra, and choir assignments, and K-12 offerings may be reduced as a result.

Comments on **option 3** noted that the current music license system fails to address the need for necessary changes to music pathways, and trying to address changes through standards revision alone would not do enough to address the identified structural issues.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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Two members of the music advisory group are here to give their thoughts on the music licensure options:

- Max Clifford, Orchestra Director, Guitar Instructor, Wayzata High School
- Kevin Huseth, Instrumental Music Teacher, Cloquet High School

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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## Request

- We are seeking Board approval to move forward with the following recommendation regarding music licensure, which was proposed by the steering committee, supported by the Board's ad hoc committee, aligns with the Board's approach to streamlining licensure, and supported by nearly every advisory group member:
- *Discontinue the K-12 Vocal and Classroom Music and the K-12 Instrumental and Classroom Music licenses and replace them with a single PK-12 Music license with specialization embedded in the standards*
- Once the Board has approved and/or determined how to address music licensure, PELSB, Perpich, and MDE will assemble writing workgroups for each arts license. Those workgroups will review and revise standards for all arts licenses and create standards for any new license.

# Music Teacher Licensure Advisory Group

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**Option**

- Direct the Board's rulemaking attorney to pursue the creation of a single PK-12 Music license with specialization embedded in the standards in alignment with the Board's rulemaking calendar.
- Table for further consideration.
- Do nothing (keeping recommended licensure areas the same).

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# Fiscal Year 2027 Calendar

**Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director**

# Fiscal Year 2027 Calendar

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- **Friday, July 17, 2026**
- **Friday, August 14, 2026**
- **Friday, September 18, 2026**
- **Friday, October 16, 2026 (MEA Weekend)**
- **Friday, November 20, 2026**
- **Friday, December 18, 2026**
- **Friday, January 15, 2027 with training retreat on Thursday, January 14, 2027**
- **Friday, February 19, 2027**
- **Friday, March 19, 2027**
- **Friday, April 16, 2027**
- **Friday, May 21, 2027**
- **Friday June 25, 2027 with retreat on Thursday, June 24, 2027**

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# Committee Reports

**Executive**

**Licensing**

**Teacher Preparation**

**Legislative**

**Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Educators**

**Standards and Rules**

Call to Order

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# Staff Reports

## Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

# Staff Reports

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| Work Group/Community Partner Meeting | Focus Area | Board/Staff Lead | Date |
|---|---|---|---|
| **PESBA Winter Meeting** | Teacher Preparation Planning | Yelena, Erin | 2/28-2/29 |
| **NASDTEC Symposium** | Apprenticeship & Residency | Yelena, Erin | 2/29-2/31 |
| **Science Teacher Licensure Working Group** | PELSB Advisory | Steve, Erin | 2/4 |
| **Standards & Rules** | TOCAIT and Microcredentials | Lucy, Yelena, Erin, Steve | 2/5 |
| **MACTE Winter Meeting** | PELSB Updates | Erin, Michelle, Calvin | 2/6 |
| **IWA/GWDB/MNP20 Committee on Educator Workforce** | Educator Workforce | Yelena | 2/6 |
| **Special Education Prep Providers Forum** | Quarterly Meeting | Erin | 2/9 |
| **CEEDAR** | High Leverage Practices, Recruitment and Retention Policies | Michelle Sandler | 2/10-2/12 |
| **Central Region Meeting** | Ed Policy | Yelena, Erin | 2/11 |
| **MCATP (Alt. Providers) Meeting** | PELSB Updates/Literacy | Lucy, Melissa | 2/12 |
| **NASDTEC Webinar** | Literacy | Lucy, Yelena | 2/13 |
| **Senate Ed Policy Committee** | Legislative Policy | Lucy, Yelena | 2/18 |

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# Chair Report

## Dr. Lucy Payne, Chair

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# The meeting is adjourned.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

March 20, 2026

Please visit https://mn.gov/pelsb/board/meetings/ for more information.

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# The Board is in Recess until 11:11 a.m.