

Board Meeting

9:30 am

January 23, 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. Special Education Licensure Advisory Group

B. CCAST Update

VI. New Business

A. Microcredentials

B. Student Teaching & Online Learning

VII. Reports

VIII. Adjourn

Call to Order

Oral Arguments

Discipline Matters

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Board is in Closed Session for Discipline Matters

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Discipline Report Out

Dr. Lucy Payne, Chair

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

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Karla Stone

Senior Lecturer, University of Minnesota

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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.

Timeline for Advisory Group Work



September

17 | Committee Meeting:
Overview | Charged | Key Questions



October

15 | Committee Meeting:

- Rulemaking process/timelines
- Data on overlapping needs
- Teacher prep data & trends



November

19 | Committee Meeting:

- Data on current licenses – how well are they working or not
- Renewal and/or microcredentials options
- Discussing potential scopes



December

17 | Committee Meeting:

- Examples from Iowa and Rhode Island
- MDE student sped data
- Survey data (limited response rate)



January

21 | Committee Meeting:

- Further survey data (larger response rate)
- Prepare recommendations for Board Meeting

Special Education Licensure Advisory Group

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Recommendation:

- The group was split on the recommendation.
- Of the half that do not want changes to the license, 2 of 3 people recommend the Board pursue 2 cross-categorical, moderate-to-severe licenses (behavioral and developmental) *if* the Board decides to combine licensure areas.
- The majority recommend not replacing the Physical and Health 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 than their colleagues think they are, about half of do not feel adequately prepared.
- Unclear this will address retention or shortage concerns.
- What would the scope of new licenses be?

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CPAST Update

Erin Doan, Director of Educator Preparation and Pathways

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December 2024 Board authorized a two-year pilot allowing use of the CPAST performance assessment.

Pilot goal: To collect data on an alternative performance-based measure of teacher preparation.

- Pilot began in Spring 2025
- Data availability and analysis is limited based on only one semester of active implementation.
- How does the CPAST support PELSB in meeting its regulatory obligations and does its use align to PELSB's mission and vision? What data will be needed to answer questions about its possible long-term use.

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Microcredentials

Dr. Lucy Payne, Board Chair

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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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Student Teaching & Online Learning

Dr. Lucy Payne, Board Chair

Student Teaching & Online Learning

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- **As attendance declines in response to safety concerns in Minnesota communities, more schools are moving to distance learning or hybrid learning opportunities**
- **Preparation program providers and their partner districts are now challenged to provide continuous, full-time, in person student teaching opportunities for candidates**
- **Providers are seeking flexibility and additional guidance from PELSB to determine the best path forward for the Spring 2026 semester.**

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Licensing

Teacher Preparation

Legislative

Increase Teachers of Color and Indigenous Educators

Standards and Rules

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Staff Reports

Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

Staff Reports

	Work Group/Community Partner Meeting	Focus Area	Board/Staff Lead	Date
Call to Order				
Discipline Matters	READ Act Coalition	Literacy	Lucy Payne, Yelena Bailey, Erin Doan, Michelle Sandler	12/16/25
Consent Agenda	NEEC Ad Hoc	Licensure Policy	Yelena Bailey	12/16/25
	Ethnic Studies Coalition	Licensure Policy	Steve Rollins, Erin Doan	1/5/26
Public Comment	Data Collaboration – RI & MA	Data & Assessment Policy	Yelena Bailey	1/7/26
Unfinished Business	Literacy Labs Panel	Literacy	Lucy Payne	1/8/26
	MDE: Developmental Delay Working Group	Special Education Policy	Erin Doan	1/9/26
New Business	MASPA Conference	Licensure Policy	Lucy Payne, Yelena Bailey, Debby Odell	1/9/26
Reports	UMN Policy Breakfast	Prep & Licensure Policy	Lucy Payne, Yelena Bailey, Erin Doan	1/13/26
	Data collaboration – MN	Data & Assessment Policy	Yelena Bailey, Erin Doan, Kat Anthony-Wigle, Caren Custer	1/14/26
Adjourn	Subcommittee on Ed Workforce	Workforce Solutions	Erin Doan	1/16/26

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Chair Report

Dr. Lucy Payne, Chair

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The meeting is adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings:
February 20, 2026

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

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