
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Dr. Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

Date: October 9, 2026

Subject: Increase Educators of Color and Indigenous Educators Committee Update – REPORT

Background

The Board's Increase Educators of Color and Indigenous Educators of Color (IEoCIE) Committee was established in 2020 in response to community partners' requests that the Board address issues specific to BIPOC educators. Over the years, the committee has translated community engagement into actionable policies, such as the removal of testing barriers and the creation of the Heritage Language Portfolio Cohort Program.

While the Committee was doing that work, it also brought important issues to the full Board, helping to shift the Board's attention and priorities to better align with its stated mission and vision. Over the past few years, issues that may have gone to the committee have instead come directly to the full board. As a result, the IEoCIE Committee has had less reason to formally meet.

Discussion

The Executive Committee discussed how to best honor the original purpose of this committee while streamlining operations. The Executive Committee recommends folding the duties of the IEoCIE Committee into those of the Executive Committee, similar to what was done two years ago with the Operations Committee. This change would in no way negate the importance of the IEoCIE Committee but rather formalize the shift of that committee's work into the full Board's priorities.

Options

This is a report. No action is necessary.