ASL Subcommittee

Recommendation to the Board

[122A.XX] License to Teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education

Subdivision 1. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt licensure rules establishing licensure requirements for an applicant seeking a license to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education in prekindergarten through grade 12 on a tier 1 or tier 2 license. In addition to other requirements, the applicant must demonstrate the minimum level of proficiency in American Sign Language and comprehension of Deaf culture as determined by the board.

Subdivision 2. Authority to issue licenses to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture. The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must issue a tier 3 license to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education to applicants that meet the qualifications set forth in subdivision 2 and 3.

Subd. 2. Qualifications.

The board must issue a license to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education to an applicant who demonstrates the following:

A. The applicant holds a bachelor’s degree;

B. The applicant has completed a state-approved teacher preparation program that includes field-specific student teaching equivalent to field-specific student teaching in Minnesota-approved teacher preparation programs. The field-specific student teaching requirement does not apply to a candidate that has two years of teaching experience; and

C. The applicant has obtained a passing score on the board-adopted content and pedagogy examinations.

Subd. 3. Licensure via portfolio.

A. An applicant who does not meet the qualifications set forth in subdivision 2, paragraphs (A) or (B), may apply for a license by submitting a portfolio to demonstrate the applicant has the skills and competence necessary to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education.

B. The board, in consultation with the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, must issue a license to teach American Sign Language and Deaf Culture Education to applicants who complete the portfolio process according to this subdivision.

C. The applicant must:

1. hold a bachelor’s degree or have completed other academic training, courses, or degrees, as approved by the board;

2. obtain a passing score on the board-adopted content and pedagogy examinations;
3. submit a portfolio demonstrating the applicant’s knowledge and understanding of Deaf history and culture. Evidence may include a resolution or letter of support signed by the Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens; and

4. submit a portfolio demonstrating the applicant’s pedagogical competency.