
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Lucy Payne, Board Chair

Date: February 20, 2026

Subject: Microcredentials – ACTION

Background

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. The board spent part of their professional development day on January 22 learning more about microcredentials.

Request

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 needs to consider adding this to the legislative platform enabling the executive director to speak to it during session.

Options

1. Move to add support for a microcredentials task force to the Board's 2026 legislative priorities.
2. Table for further consideration.
3. Do nothing (not add to legislative priorities).