

Certificate of the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Resolution to support Academic and Behavioral Strategist teacher candidates with meeting licensure program requirements

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has brought innumerable challenges to our education system.

WHEREAS, extensive measures have been taken to address the health and safety of Minnesotans, including temporarily closing public schools and charter schools and implementing a distance learning period for the final quarter of the 2019-20 school year.ⁱ

WHEREAS, Governor Walz has directed school districts and charter schools to provide a safe and effective learning environment for Minnesota's students during the 2020-21 school year and has set parameters for implementing three instructional models (in-school instruction, distance learning, and a hybrid model).ⁱⁱ

WHEREAS, many school districts have not accepted teacher candidates for clinical experiences in the spring of 2020 and this academic year.

WHEREAS, flexibility is needed for candidates to demonstrate the skills needed for licensure.

WHEREAS, the Board is invested in ensuring every teacher candidate receive high-quality teacher preparation.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules require that candidates have experiences in the content of the licensure area sought.

Minn. R. 8705.1000, subpart 3(B). The unit has a process to assure that programs provide and require experiences in the field aligned to the scope and content of the licensure field sought;

Minn. R. 8705.1000 subpart 3(G). For initial licensure, each program requires a student teaching period of a minimum of 12 continuous weeks, full time, face-to-face, which could be split into two placements, and in compliance with program-specific field experience and student teaching requirements set forth in parts [8705.2000](#) to [8705.2600](#) and parts [8710.3000](#) to [8710.8080](#); and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's Teacher Standard Rules outline that Academic and Behavioral Strategist teacher candidates must have experiences with needs from five disability areas.

Special Education: Academic and Behavioral Strategist: Minn. R. 8710.5050, Subp. 3E. A teacher of special education: academic and behavioral strategist applies the standards of effective

practice in teaching students who have a range of mild to moderate needs from the primary disability areas of autism spectrum disorders, developmental cognitive delays, emotional or behavioral disorders, other health disorders, and specific learning disabilities in primary (kindergarten through grade 4), middle level (grades 5 through 8), and secondary (grades 9 through 12, including transition programs) settings.

WHEREAS, I, Brian Rappe, certify that I am a member and the Chair of the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, a board authorized under the laws of the State of Minnesota; that the following is a true, complete, and correct copy of a resolution that the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board adopted at a properly convened meeting on November 13, 2020; that a quorum was present; and that a majority of those present voted for the resolution, which has not been rescinded or modified.

THEREFORE, the Board resolved the following:

- The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board will suspend the enforcement of clinical experiences with students in one of the five disability areas (autism spectrum disorders (ASD), developmental cognitive delays (DCD), emotional or behavioral disorders (EBD), other health disorders (OHD), and specific learning disabilities (SLD)) for Academic and Behavioral Strategist candidates completing a licensure program in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Academic and Behavioral Strategist candidates completing programs in the 2020-2021 academic year are still required to complete clinical experiences with students who have a range of mild to moderate needs from at least four disability areas.
- Teacher preparation providers are encouraged to find Academic and Behavioral Strategist candidates clinical experiences with students with needs in all five disability areas, if possible.
- For candidates missing an experience in one of the five disability areas, teacher preparation providers are encouraged to provide alternative experiences that allow for candidates to demonstrate understanding and skills with students with that disability.
- This has no effect on candidates completing after the 2020-2021 academic year.

Date: November 13, 2020

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Rappe", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

ⁱ Minn. Exec. Order No. 20-02 (March 15, 2020), https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-02%20Final_tcm1055-423084.pdf; Minn. Exec. Order No. 20-19 (March 25, 2020), https://mn.gov/governor/assets/2a.%20EO%2020-19%20FINAL%20SIGNED%20Filed_tcm1055-425019.pdf; Minn. Exec. Order 20-41 (April 23, 2020), https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-41%20Final_tcm1055-430418.pdf.

ⁱⁱ Minn. Exec, Order No 20-82 (July 30, 2020), https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-82%20Final_tcm1055-442177.pdf.