MINNESOTA
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR
LICENSING AND STANDARDS BOARD

MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Steve Rollin, Rulemaking Attorney

Date: November 13, 2026

Subject: R4863 Rulemaking Update - REPORT

Background

The Board is proposing changes to the rule parts governing teacher licensure, renewal, and other legislative requirements. The proposed rules are about the following seven key topics:

- Topic 1. Implementing legislative mandates that expand the exemption from a bachelor's degree requirement for licensure to include teachers seeking licensure in world language & culture, and the visual or performing arts (Sec. 122A.181 MN Statutes);
- Topic 2. Adopting legislative required components to the renewal requirement specific to American Indian history and culture (MN Statutes – Section 122A.187, Subdivision 7);
- Topic 3. Streamlining certain components of the licensure via portfolio process;
- Topic 4. Defining "meaningful progress" for the purpose of determining whether a teacher on a Tier 2 license can renew;
- Topic 5. Early Childhood Education Licensure – adoption of national standards for teacher licensure;
- Topic 6. Ethnic Studies licensure – providing teacher licensure stemming from a legislative mandate for schools to offer Ethnic Studies courses (Sec. 120B.251 MN Statutes); and,
- Topic 7. Computer Science licensure – providing teacher licensure stemming from a legislative mandate for more Computer Science in the schools (Minn. Stat. 120B.241 (2023)).

A copy of the proposed rules is available on the Board's website at https://mn.gov/pelsb/assets/RD4863%20-%202Sept26_tcm1113-766966.pdf .

PELSB published its Dual Notice of Intent to Adopt the Rule in the *State Register* on September 28, 2026. The Dual Notice triggered a 30-day pre-hearing comment period, which ended on November 2, 2026. Most of the 293 comments requested a hearing, which is now scheduled for January 8, 2027, with the Court of Administrative Hearings.

Discussion

PELSB received around 300 comments. The vast majority of the comments objected to the proposed ethnics studies teaching license. While most objections did not include a reason, those that did were based on the misconception that the standards impose political bias on teachers and directly decide what K-12 students are taught.

PELSB staff categorized the comments and prepared draft responses for the Board to review. The Board must discuss the responses this month and vote on them at the December meeting.

Options

This is a report. No action is needed.