
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Steve Rollin, Rulemaking Attorney

Date: September 18, 2026

Subject: Science Licensure (Report)

Background

In May 2026, the Board voted to move forward with the recommendation to streamline science licensure by working towards one, or no more than two, 5-12 science license(s). The new 5-12 science license(s) will be able to teach 5-8, the science 5-8 license will become a legacy license, and current 7-12 and 9-12 licenses will be amended to allow teaching 5-8 science.

At the June 2026 board meeting, the Board voted that the current 5-8 endorsement license (for elementary teachers) is maintained.

Discussion

While the Board has provided clear direction for rulemaking, current science teachers have reached out to ask if anything can be done to allow them to teach 5-8 science while the rulemaking is in process.

Currently, science licenses under Minn. Rule 8710.4750 are for grades 5-8 (general science) or 9-12 (by subject area). A legacy science license is in place for grades 7-12 (by subject area).

Under Minn. Rule 8710.4770, teachers licensed in a science subject area in grades 9-12 or 7-12 may take an exam for licensure in other science subject areas; however, this does not include taking an exam for 5-8 science licensure.

The Board could consider a resolution to waive the grade 9-12 requirement to allow 7-12 and 9-12 science teachers to add science 5-8 via testing. The testing could be adapted from the licensure-by-exam procedure in 8710.4770.

Concurrently, the Board could consider a resolution to waive a limitation so middle school teachers can teach more 9th grade science without an out-of-field permission. The rule already allows 9th grade Physical Science or 9th grade Integrated Science courses for teachers with 5-8 science licenses. The waiver would read as follows:

“Licenses issued to teach all sciences in grades 5 through 8 under this exception . . . are not valid for teaching integrated science offerings above grade 9.” The resolution would be a temporary measure until the science licensure rules are revised in 2027.

Options

- This is a report. No action is necessary.