
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

Date: June 26, 2026

Subject: Science Licensure Work Group – Action

Background

In April 2025, the Board approved work to discuss how science licensure will address licensure scopes and how to expand up/down in grade levels. A PELSB-facilitated Science Teacher Licensure working group (“working group”), composed of a broad range of science teachers, administrators, and teacher preparation providers, met and deliberated from November 2025 until April 2026. The working group determined the issues to be discussed in-depth and presented an overview of each issue, current statutes and rules, options for addressing each issue (with a discussion of pros and cons), and recommendations. The full report is in your materials at (LINK NEEDED).

In December 2025, the Board approved a guiding philosophy for streamlining licensure. For science licensure, the Board included a recommendation for fewer licenses and a simplified scope (e.g., 5-12 licenses) but that it is open to the recommendations of the working group. Additionally, the Board recommended changes to current policy to help science teachers gain a general license.

Work Group Recommendations

The work group presented their recommendations at the April 2026 board meeting. Many members of the group recommend making no changes, while others recommend combining secondary licenses.

Additional Information & May Action

At the April meeting, board members asked for additional data on OFPs, as well as information on how MDE’s academic standards align with PELSB licensure. PELSB staff presented that data at the May board meeting and 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).

June Action

The Board tabled discussion of 5-8 science licensure and asked for additional information on the number of K8 schools. There is a total of 339 “schools” listed as EC/Pk/K-8/9. Over half of these are classified as “targeted services programs,” which means they have a school number for funding purposes, but are largely located within a school building and not necessarily schools themselves.

Number of EC/Pk/K-8/9 Schools	Classification
51	Unclassified schools (charter schools)
64	Elementary schools
1	Middle school (only 4-7)
186	Targeted services (likely a program within a school building)
3	Organization-run online instruction
10	Special education
24	Special education ESY (likely also programs within a school building)

Options

- Recommend the new 5-12 science license(s) can teach 5-8 and the science 5-8 licenses become legacy license.
 1. Table for further discussion.
 2. Recommend no changes to 5-8 licensure structure.