

Shortage Areas: Licensure

Updated: June 2025, for applications received July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026

Purpose

To renew a Tier 1 more than three times, an individual has a few options allowed in statute to request a fourth renewal. One of those areas is teaching in a licensure shortage area. The first table in this document indicates all licensure areas considered a shortage area across the state of Minnesota.

Another option for a fourth renewal is a licensure shortage area within the economic development region you are requesting to teach in. There is a table for each economic development region in this document. These tables only list additional shortage areas beyond what is already available for the statewide licensure shortage areas.

Special Education Licensure Fields

During the 2024 legislation session a change for Special Education Tier 1 licenses was made with the purpose of meeting Federal Government requirements for Special Education licenses. [Laws of Minnesota, Chapter 109, Article 3, Section 5](#) states that Minnesota Statute 122A.181 has been amended to “a teacher with a Tier 1 license in a special education field may assume the functions as a teacher for a period of time not to exceed three years.”

Elementary Education

Elementary Education is eligible for three or more renewals due to good cause ONLY for language immersion programs. Districts may be required to provide additional documentation.

Statewide License Shortage Areas

These licensure areas qualify for additional Tier 1 renewals.

Licensure Area
Communication Arts and Literature
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education – Language Immersion settings
English as a Second Language
Health
Library Media Specialist
Mathematics
Parent and Family Education
Physical Education
Pre-primary
Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding and Related Technology Application
Technology

Science Licensure Areas
Chemistry
Earth and Space Science
Life Science
Physics
Science 5-8

CTE and Career Pathways Licensure Areas
Agricultural Education
Business
Communications Technology Careers
Construction Careers
Cosmetology
Creative Design Careers
Early Childhood Careers
Family and Consumer Sciences
Hospitality Careers
Law Enforcement
Manufacturing Careers
Medical Careers
Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Transportation Careers

Visual and Performing Arts
Dance
Dance and Theatre Arts
Instrumental and Classroom Music
Theatre Arts
Visual Arts
Vocal and Classroom Music

World Languages
Arabic
American Sign Language
Chinese
Dakota
French
German
Greek
Hebrew
Latin
Ojibwe
Russian
Spanish

Other World Languages
Amharic
Hmong
Karen
Korean
Norwegian
Polish
Somali
Swahili
Swedish
Tigrinya

Statewide Special Education License Shortage Areas

These licenses do not qualify for additional Tier 1 renewals, but they are considered statewide shortage areas.

Special Education
Academic and Behavioral Strategist
Autism Spectrum Disorders
Blind or Visually Impaired
Developmental/ Adapted Physical Education
Developmental Disabilities
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Emotional Behavior Disorder
Early Childhood Special Education
Learning Disabilities
Physical and Health Disabilities

Shortage Areas by Economic Development Region (EDR)

Since Special Education licenses do not qualify for a fourth Tier 1 and the EDR shortage area only refers to fourth Tier 1 renewals, Special Education licensure areas will not be listed in this section. If you would like information on Special Education shortage areas by EDR, please email datarequest.PELSB@state.mn.us.

Economic Development Region 1: Northwest

Kittson County, Marshall County, Norman County, Pennington County, Polk County, Red Lake County, and Roseau County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	German Language	Physics
Business	Health	Pre-Primary
Chemistry	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Spanish Language
Communications Technology Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Mathematics	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding and Related Technology Application
Earth and Space Science	Medical Careers	Technology
Early Childhood	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
Family and Consumer Science	Physical Education	Vocal and Classroom Music

Economic Development Region 2: Headwaters

Beltrami County, Clearwater County, Hubbard County, Lake of the Woods County, and Mahanomen County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	English as a Second Language	Parent and Family Educator
Business	Family and Consumer Sciences	Physical Education
Chemistry	Health	Pre-Primary
Communication Arts and Literature	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Science 5-8
Communications Technology Careers	Life Science	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding and Related Technology Application
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Technology
Creative Designs Careers	Mathematics	Visual Arts
Earth and Space Science	Medical Careers	Vocal and Classroom Music

Economic Development Region 3: Arrowhead

Aitkin County, Carlton County, Cook County, Itasca County, Koochiching County, Lake County, St. Louis County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Hospitality Careers	Pre-Primary
Business	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Library Media Specialist	Social Studies
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Spanish
Communications Technology Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Mathematics	Teachers of Computers, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Early Childhood	Medical Careers	Technology
Early Childhood Careers	Ojibwe Language	Theatre Arts
Earth and Space Science	Other Languages	Transportation Careers
English as a Second Language	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
Family and Consumer Science	Physical Education	Vocal and Classroom Music
Health	Physics	

Economic Development Region 4: West Central

Becker County, Clay County, Douglas County, Grant County, Otter Tail County, Pope County, Stevens County, Traverse County, Wilkin County

Licensure Area Description		
American Sign Language	Earth and Space Science	Parent and Family Educator
Agriculture	English as a Second Language	Physical Education
Business	Family and Consumer Science	Physics
Chemistry	Health	Pre-Primary
Chinese	Hospitality	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Library Media Specialist	Spanish
Communications Technology Careers	Life Science	Teachers of Computers, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Theatre Arts
Cosmetology	Mathematics	Transportation Careers
Driver's Education	Medical Careers	Visual Arts
Early Childhood		

Economic Development Region 5: North Central

Cass County, Crow Wing County, Morrison County, Todd County, Wadena County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Science	Pre-primary
Business	Health	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Social Studies
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Technology
Communications Technology Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Theatre Arts
Construction Careers	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
Early Childhood	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
Earth and Space Science	Physical Education	Vocal and Classroom Music
English as a Second Language	Physics	

Economic Development Region 6E: Southwest Central

Kandiyohi County, McLeod County, Meeker County, Renville County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Sciences	Physics
Business	German	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Law Enforcement	Social Studies
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Communications Technology Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Teachers of Computers, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Construction Careers	Mathematics	Technology
Earth and Space Science	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
English as a Second Language	Physical Education	Visual Arts

Economic Development Region 6W: Upper Minnesota Valley

Big Stone County, Chippewa County, Lac qui Parle County, Swift County, Yellow Medicine County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Sciences	Physics
Business	Health	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Social Studies
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Mathematics	Visual Arts
Earth and Space Science	Physical Education	Vocal and Classroom Music
English as a Second Language		

Economic Development Region 7E: East Central

Chisago County, Isanti County, Kanabec County, Mille Lacs County, Pine County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Science	Physics
Business	French	Pre-Primary
Chemistry	Health	Reading
Communication Arts and Literature	Law Enforcement	Science 5-8
Communications Technology Careers	Library Media Specialist	Spanish
Construction Careers	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Dance	Manufacturing Careers	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Driver's Education	Mathematics	Technology
Early Childhood	Medical Careers	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood Careers	Other Languages	Transportation Careers
Earth and Space Science	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
English as a Second Language	Physical Education	

Economic Development Region 7W: Central

Benton County, Sherburne County, Stearns County, and Wright County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Science	Parent and Family Educator
American Sign Language	Health	Physics
Business	Hospitality Careers	Pre-Primary
Chinese	Law Enforcement	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Library Media Specialist	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Communications Technology Careers	Life Science	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Technology
Cosmetology	Mathematics	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
Earth and Space Science	Other Languages	Visual Arts
English as a Second Language		

Economic Development Region 8: Southwest

Cottonwood County, Jackson County, Lincoln County, Lyon County, Murray County, Nobles County, Pipestone County, Redwood County, and Rock County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Health	Pre-Primary
Business	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Reading
Chemistry	Life Science	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Manufacturing Careers	Spanish
Communications Technology Careers	Mathematics	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Medical Careers	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Early Childhood	Other Languages	Technology
Earth and Space Science	Parent Educator	Transportation Careers
English as a Second Language	Physical Education	Visual Arts
Family and Consumer Science	Physics	Vocal and Classroom Music
German		

Economic Development Region 9: South Central

Blue Earth County, Brown County, Faribault County, Le Sueur County, Martin County, Nicollet County Sibley County, Waseca County, and Watonwan County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Science	Physical Education
Business	Health	Physics
Chemistry	Library Media Specialist	Pre-Primary
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Science 5-8
Communications Technology Careers	Mathematics	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
Earth Science	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
English as a Second Language		

Economic Development Region 10: Southeast

Dodge County, Fillmore County, Freeborn County, Goodhue County, Houston County, Mower County, Olmsted County, Rice County, Steele County, Wabasha County, and Winona County

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	Family and Consumer Science	Physics
Arabic	French	Pre-Primary
Business	Hospitality Careers	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Library Media Specialist	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Communication Arts and Literature	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Communications Technology Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Technology
Construction Careers	Mathematics	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
Earth and Space Science	Parent Educator	Visual Arts
English as a Second Language	Physical Education	

Economic Development Region 11: 7-County Twin Cites

Anoka County, Carver County, Dakota County, Hennepin County, Ramsey County, Scott County, and Washington County

Licensure Area Description		
American Sign Language	English as a Second Language	Other Languages
Arabic	German	Parent and Family Educator
Agriculture	Greek	Pre-Primary
Business	Family and Consumer Science	Physical Education
Chemistry	Health	Physics
Chinese	Hebrew	Russian
Dakota (World Language)	Hospitality Careers	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Latin	Spanish
Communication Technology Careers	Law Enforcement	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Library Media Specialist	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Cosmetology Careers	Life Science	Technology
Dance	Manufacturing Careers	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood	Mathematics	Transportation Careers
Early Childhood Careers	Medical Careers	Visual Arts
Earth and Space Science	Ojibwe (World Language)	