

Shortage Areas: Licensure

Updated: June 2026, for applications received July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027

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.

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. [Minnesota Statutes 2025, section 122A.181 subd. 1a\(b\) Special Education requirements](#) states that a teacher with a Tier 1 license in a special education field cannot 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.

General Education Content
Communication Arts and Literature
English as a Second Language
Health
Library Media Specialist
Mathematics
Physical Education
Reading
Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding and Related Technology Application
Technology

Early Childhood and Elementary Areas
Early Childhood Education
Elementary Education (Language Immersion settings)
Parent and Family Education
Pre-Primary

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

Visual and Performing Arts
Dance
Dance and Theatre Arts
Theatre Arts
Visual Arts

Career and Technical Education
Agricultural Education
Business
Communications Technology Careers
Construction Careers
Creative Design Careers
Early Childhood Careers
Family and Consumer Sciences
Hospitality Careers
Manufacturing Careers
Medical Careers
Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Transportation Careers

Career Pathways Licensure Areas
Cosmetology
Law Enforcement

World Languages
American Sign Language
Arabic
Chinese
Dakota
German
Hebrew
Hmong
Japanese
Karen
Korean
Latin
Ojibwe
Russian
Somali
Spanish

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
Deaf or Hard of Hearing
Developmental Disabilities
Developmental/ Adapted Physical Education
Early Childhood Special Education
Emotional Behavior Disorder
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		
Business	Health	Pre-Primary
Chemistry	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Science 5-8
Communication Arts and Literature	Library Media Specialist	Spanish Language
Communications Technology Careers	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding and Related Technology Application
Dance and Theatre	Mathematics	Technology
Earth and Space Science	Medical Careers	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
English as a Second Language	Physical Education	Vocal and Classroom Music
Family and Consumer Science	Physics	

Economic Development Region 2: Headwaters

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

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

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		
Agriculture	Earth and Space Science	Reading
Business	English as a Second Language	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Family and Consumer Science	Spanish
Communication Arts and Literature	Health	Teachers of Computers, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Communications Technology Careers	Hospitality	Technology
Construction Careers	Life Science	Theatre Arts
Cosmetology	Manufacturing Careers	Transportation Careers
Dance and Theatre	Medical Careers	Visual Arts
Driver's Education	Physics	

Economic Development Region 5: North Central

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

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

Economic Development Region 6E: Southwest Central

Kandiyohi County, McLeod County, Meeker County, Renville County

Licensure Area Description		
Business	Health	Social Studies
Chemistry	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	Physical Education	Transportation Careers
English as a Second Language	Physics	Visual Arts
Family and Consumer Sciences	Reading	
German	Science 5-8	

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	English as a Second Language	Pre-Primary
Business	Family and Consumer Sciences	Science 5-8
Chemistry	Health	Social Studies
Communication Arts and Literature	Instrumental and Classroom Music	Spanish
Communication Technologies Careers	Life Science	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Manufacturing Careers	Visual Arts
Creative Designs Careers	Mathematics	Vocal and Classroom Music
Early Childhood Education	Parent and Family Education	
Earth and Space Science	Physical Education	

Economic Development Region 7E: East Central

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

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	German	Physics
Chemistry	Health	Reading
Communication Arts and Literature	Law Enforcement	Science 5-8
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 Education	Medical Careers	Theatre Arts
Earth and Space Science	Ojibwe	Transportation Careers
English as a Second Language	Parent and Family Educator	Visual Arts
Family and Consumer Science	Physical Education	

Economic Development Region 7W: Central

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

Licensure Area Description		
Agriculture	English as a Second Language	Physics
Business	Family and Consumer Science	Pre-Primary
Chemistry	Health	Science 5-8
Chinese	Hospitality Careers	Somali
Communications Technology Careers	Law Enforcement	Teacher-Coordinator Work Based Learning
Construction Careers	Life Science	Teachers of Computer, Keyboarding, and Related Technology Applications
Cosmetology	Manufacturing Careers	Technology
Creative Designs Careers	Mathematics	Theatre Arts
Early Childhood Education	Medical Careers	Transportation Careers
Earth and Space Science	Parent and Family Educator	

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

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

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

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