
MEMORANDUM

To: Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

From: Yelena Bailey, Executive Director

Date: January 23, 2026

Subject: Special Education Advisory Group Update –REPORT

Background

The 2024 Legislature created a work group to address streamlining special education licensure. The work group consisted of special education teachers, administrators, teacher preparation providers, and a representative from Education Minnesota. The group met over the course of several months to review current special education licenses, Minnesota statutes and rules related to special education, Minnesota special education data, and other states' special education licenses. On February 1, 2025, the work group made a final report to the legislature.

In addition to the report to the legislature, the group also presented to the Board and made the following recommendations:

1. Create a moderate-to-severe/profound, cross-categorical special education license (similar to the ABS license).
2. Explore the option of Minnesota joining the [Interstate Teacher Mobility Contract](#) (ITMC).

At the January 2025 Board meeting, the Board created a Special Education Licensure Subcommittee made up of board members who work in special education to review the Special Education Work Group's recommendations. The group met and determined more information was needed, so the Special Education Advisory Group was created.

The Special Education Advisory Group has been meeting since September 2025 with the charge of reviewing policy and research related to special education licensure and making a recommendation on the creation of a new moderate-to-severe, cross-categorical license. Like the previous groups, members represent special education practitioners and administrators. The group reviewed the February 1 legislative report, current special education data, and heard from other states with a similar cross-categorical license.

PELSB staff is providing a report on the group's discussion and will return with the group's final recommendation in February.

Options

This is a report, so no direct board action is required.