

Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2025
To: PELSB Board Members
From: Ad Hoc Committee
RE: Streamlining Licensure

Background:

Since the implementation of tiered licensure in 2018, there have been significant changes to teacher licensure in Minnesota. That said, many licensure fields have not been updated since 2001. Currently, there are more than 80 licensure fields, many of which can be issued with multiple scopes (e.g. a license in Mathematics can be issued for grades 5-8 or 5-12).

The Board began discussing streamlining licensure at the 2024 retreat and revisited the topic at the 2025 retreat. In August, the Board Chair created the Ad Hoc Committee to continue these discussions and bring back a set of recommendations to the full board. Given the current rulemaking project and upcoming work in arts and science licensure, these recommendations will help shape the Board's immediate policy work.

Data and Information Reviewed

- Recommendations from staff based on licensing data
- Science Teacher Data from PELSB staff
- OFP, tiers 1 & 2
- Standards and Rules Conversations – May and August
- Feedback from districts and teacher prep

Guiding Philosophy

- There is a need to streamline the number of licenses, which includes content knowledge and scope.
- There is a need for flexibility based on a broader knowledge base, teachers prepared to meet current and emerging needs of students.
- While the needs of districts (staffing, student needs, flexibility) are a factor, these overlap with students' needs for trained, highly qualified teachers. Changes to the licensure structure and teacher prep address both.
- The Board should create only needed/required licenses and let districts work with teachers on going PD.
 - Don't create programs that aren't required, EPPs might not have the resources to create programs that potential to be low enrolled. Add depth through PD / renewal.
 - Using renewal and microcredentials to grow depth of knowledge
 - K-6 endorsement areas can be address in the microcredential space

- The emphasis of teacher qualifications is on pedagogy – this is what makes a great teacher.
- Content knowledge is important, but changes in technology have shifted the way teachers and students access content knowledge.

Specific Licensure Recommendations:

Ethic Studies K-6 Endorsement & Computer Science K-6 Endorsement

The committee recommends the Board does not create these K-6 endorsements because the content can be taught by licensed elementary teachers. They do recommend that standards related to these content areas be included in future revisions of the elementary education licensure rules.

Arts Licensure

The committee recommends merging licenses to create a general music license. The committee does not recommend the creation of a media arts license. However, the committee recommends that the media arts standards be integrated into existing licenses eligible to teach media arts classes (arts, library media specialist, etc.).

Science Licensure

The committee recommends fewer licenses and a simplified scope (e.g. 5-12 licenses) but is open to the recommendations of the newly created Science License Working Group. Additionally, the committee recommends changes to current policy to help science teachers gain general license.

Options:

This is a report. No action is needed.