

Teacher Preparation Manual

Chapter 1

ABOUT PELSB

Last updated
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About PELSB

MISSION

Ensuring all Minnesota students have high quality educators in their schools.

VISION

To ensure equitable education practices through high licensure standards, quality educator preparation programs, and community partner engagement.

1.1: ABOUT

The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) was created by the state legislature in 2017, when the legislature combined the work of the Board of Teaching (BOT) and the Minnesota Department of Education's Licensing Division.

PELSB is tasked with:

- Licensing teachers, including related services providers, in Minnesota;
- Establishing and maintaining teacher licensure standards and requirements;
- Establishing and enforcing the Teacher Code of Ethics; and,
- Approving and overseeing teacher preparation providers ("units") and programs to prepare candidates for licensure in Minnesota.



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The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board is governed by 13 board members, with each member representing a unique perspective of the educational landscape¹. Board members are appointed by the governor for a four-year term, and in most cases, can be reappointed twice. Board membership is comprised of:

- Two teacher educators;
- One administrator of a cooperative unit who oversees a special education program;
- One principal, alternating between serving in an elementary or secondary school;
- One superintendent, alternating between a superintendent serving in a school district within and outside of the seven-county metropolitan area;
- One member of the public.

And seven teachers:

- One teacher serving in a charter school;
- Two teachers serving outside the seven-county metropolitan area;
- One related services provider;
- Two teachers serving in the seven-county metropolitan area; and,
- One special education teacher.

PELSB holds monthly board meetings to review unit and program approvals, licensing and discipline actions, as well as to discuss other emerging issues. Board meetings are open to the public. PELSB sets its regular meeting schedule at the beginning of each fiscal year. Board meetings are typically held on the third Friday of every month starting at 9:30 a.m. PELSB can also schedule special board meetings by providing notice at least three days prior to the meeting. All upcoming meetings can be found on [PELSB's calendar](#).

¹ Minn. Stat. 122A.07, subd. 2.

PELSB has several committees, comprised of two to three board members, which meet on a regular basis to discuss a variety of topics and issues. Most committee meetings are open to the public. Committees include:

- Executive Committee, which serves as a steering committee for conducting Board business and setting meeting agendas;
- Legislative Committee, which is responsible for keeping the Board informed of legislation that may affect the Board's work and for helping prepare a legislative platform each year;
- Licensure Committee, which is responsible for reviewing all licensure applications and permissions that may result in a denial or license other than desired (i.e., lower tier);
- Teacher Preparation Committee (TPC), which is responsible for reviewing recommendations submitted to the Board regarding unit and program approval, as well as discretionary variance requests from teacher preparation providers;
- Educator Ethics Committee, which is responsible for reviewing complaints and results of investigations alleging or implying a teacher has violated the Code of Ethics or some other law. Educator Ethics Committee meetings are not open to the public; and,
- Increase Educators of Color and Indigenous Educators Committee, which is responsible for researching and recommending policies and strategies to the Board that would help increase the number of educators of color and Indigenous educators in Minnesota.

Finally, the Board has a Standards & Rules Advisory Committee, comprised entirely of community partners and interested parties; typically at least one member of the board and board staff are in attendance and participate in discussions. The Advisory Committee meets at least quarterly to discuss emerging issues and provide feedback on possible statutory and rule changes.

More information about upcoming committee meetings is available on [PELSB's calendar](#), while up-to-date information on current committee membership is available on [Board Meetings page](#).

The recommendations of the Teacher Preparation Committee, including unit approval, program approval, and discretionary variance recommendations, are



1.2: HISTORY & TRANSITION TO PELS

In 1973, the Minnesota Legislature established the Teacher Standards and Certification Commission. While its name was changed to the Teacher Standards and Certification Commission in 1975 and then the Board of Teaching in 1976, the essential responsibilities have remained the same.

From 1976 through 2017, the Board of Teaching was responsible for establishing and maintaining licensure standards and requirements for teacher preparation programs and teachers in the state. The Board of Teaching worked with the Minnesota Department of Education's Licensing Division to issue licenses to Minnesota teachers.

During the 2017 First Special Session, the state legislature enacted major reforms to teacher licensure in Minnesota. Notably, the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board was established and a tiered licensure system was created. The tiered licensure system includes four tiers of licensure and establishes several different avenues by which an individual can become a licensed teacher.

TIERED LICENSURE INFOGRAPHIC

The Tiered Licensure infographic provides a general overview of requirements for each licensure tier. Additional information about licensure requirements is available on the [PELSB website](https://pelsb.state.mn.us) and on each tiered application. This infographic is updated periodically to reflect changes in licensure requirements. Please always see the [PELSB website](https://pelsb.state.mn.us) for the most up-to-date licensure information.

EDUCATOR LICENSURE

Effective July 1, 2024

TIER 1

Bachelor's Degree

or falls under exemption from Bachelor's Degree



1 YEAR



JOB OFFER



3 RENEWALS

Special Education:

A teacher is limited to a total of 3 years on a Tier 1 license in any special education licensure field

TIER 2

Bachelor's Degree

or falls under exemption from Bachelor's Degree

and

ONE of the following:

Enrolled in a teacher preparation program in Minnesota*

Master's Degree*

Completed a teacher preparation program* but does not yet meet requirements for a Tier 3 or Tier 4 license



2 YEARS



JOB OFFER



3 RENEWALS

TIER 3

Bachelor's Degree

or falls under exemption from Bachelor's Degree

and

Pass applicable licensure exams

or falls under exemption from licensure exams

and

ONE of the following:

Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota*

Completed a teacher preparation program in another state* and either:
(A) Equivalent student teaching or
(B) Two years of teaching experience

Licensure via Portfolio*

3 years of teaching experience in licensure field with a Tier 2 license

Professional teaching license from another state* and two years of teaching experience*



3 YEARS



TEACHER
APPLIES



UNLIMITED
RENEWALS

TIER 4

Bachelor's Degree

or falls under exemption from Bachelor's Degree

and

Pass applicable licensure exams

or falls under exemption from licensure exams

and

3 years of teaching experience*

and

ONE of the following:

Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota*

Completed a teacher preparation program in another state* and either:
(A) Equivalent student teaching or
(B) Two years of teaching experience

Licensure via Portfolio*

National Board Certification*



5 YEARS



TEACHER
APPLIES



UNLIMITED
RENEWALS

EXEMPTIONS FROM BACHELOR'S DEGREE:

- Career and Technical Education & Career Pathways: Hold an Associate's degree*, professional certification*, or 5 years of relevant work experience*
- Dance, Theater, Visual Arts, & Music: 5 years of relevant work experience*
- World Language & Culture: Native speaker of language

EXEMPTIONS FROM LICENSURE EXAMS:

- Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota
- Completed a teacher preparation program in another state and passed applicable exams
- Recommended for licensure via portfolio
- Holds National Board Certification

Note: * indicates that experience must be aligned to licensure field sought

1.3: KEY STATUTES & RULES

Minn. Stat. 122A.05–122A.093: Laws governing the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Minn. Stat. 122A.091: Laws governing reporting requirement

Minn. Stat. 122A.092: Laws governing teacher preparation providers and programs

Minn. Stat. 122A.2451: Laws governing alternative preparation providers and programs

Minn. Stat. 122A.181–122A.184: Laws governing teacher licensure

Minn. R. chapter 8705: Rules governing teacher preparation

Minn. R. 8710.0100–8710.0900 and 8710.7000–8710.7700: Rules governing licensure

Minn. R. 8710.2000: Standards of Effective Practice

Minn. R. 8710.2100: Code of Ethics

Minn. R. 8710.3000–8710.6400 and 8710.8000–8710.09010: License-specific content standards