2023 Legislative Updates

Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB)
• About PELSB

• Changes to Tiered Licensure
  • Testing
  • BA Exemptions

• Short-call substitute teacher pilot

• Grants

• Reporting
About PELSB

Mission:
Ensuring all Minnesota students have high quality educators in their schools

Vision:
To ensure equitable education practice through high licensure standards, quality educator preparation programs, and stakeholder engagement

110,000+ Licensed Teachers
500+ Teacher Preparation Programs
13 Board Members
21 PELSB Staff
New Tiered Licensure Infographic

### Licensure Requirements in MN: August 1, 2023-June 30, 2024

#### Tier 1 Requirements
- Bachelor's Degree*
- Or Exempt from Bachelor's Degree
- Career and Technical Education and Career Pathways
- All degree, professional certification or few years relevant work experience
- World Language
- Native speaker
- Dance, Theatre, Visual Arts and Music
- Five years of relevant work experience

*All licensure fields require a BA degree unless the teacher fits under a specific exemption.

- Good for one school year and can be renewed three times.
- Applicant must have a job offer from a Minnesota public school district. District and applicant apply jointly. District must show it could not find a teacher holding a Tier 2, Tier 3, or Tier 4 license for the position.
- These teachers are in the teacher bargaining unit. They are earning credit toward probation and do not have continuing contract rights.

#### Tier 2 Requirements
- Bachelor's Degree or Falls under Exemption from Bachelor's Degree
- Or Minnesota Approved Teacher Preparation Program Enrollment
- Or Master's Degree in Content Area
- Or Two of the Following:
  - Completed teacher preparation program
  - Eight upper-division credits in subject area
  - Training in subject-specific teaching methods
  - Passing score on state content and pedagogy tests

- Good for two school years and can be renewed three times.
- Applicant must have a job offer from a Minnesota public school district. District and applicant apply jointly.
- These teachers are in the teacher bargaining unit and are not probationary. However, if these teachers get to Tier 3, their two years of successful teaching at Tier 2 count toward the Tier 3 requirement of three years of probation. Teachers at Tier 2 do not have continuing contract rights.

#### Tier 3 Requirements
- Bachelor's Degree or Falls under Exemption from Bachelor's Degree
- And Completion of Preparation Program*
- And One of the Following:
  - Completion of a Minnesota-approved teacher preparation program
  - Completion of a teacher preparation program from another state that includes field-specific student teaching equivalent to requirements of MN programs. Note: Teachers who completed a teacher preparation program from another state who did not take the state’s required licensure exam must complete applicable content and pedagogy exams.
  - Portfolio in given license field
  - Threes years teaching sequence in licensure field, at Tier 2, without being placed on an improvement plan and passing scores on applicable Minnesota content and pedagogy exams.
  - Professional teaching license from another state, license in good standing, two years of teaching sequence, and passing scores on applicable Minnesota content and pedagogy exams.

- Good for three years and can be renewed individually.
- Teacher applies for the license.
- These teachers are in the bargaining unit and must complete three years of probation. They are at Tier 3 in Tier 3 for Tier 1, and Tier 2 for Tier 2. Teacher at Tier 3 in Tier 3 for Tier 1, and Tier 2 for Tier 2, two years of teaching at Tier 2 can count toward the three-year probationary requirement. Teachers at Tier 1 have continuing contract rights after completion of the probationary period.

*Teachers who completed a teacher preparation program from another state or who did not take or pass the state’s required licensure exam must complete applicable content and pedagogy exams.

- Good for the years and can be renewed indefinitely.
- Teacher applies for the license.
- These teachers are in the bargaining unit and must complete three years of probation. They are at Tier 4 in Tier 4 for Tier 1 and Tier 2 for Tier 2. Teachers at Tier 4 in Tier 3 for Tier 1, and Tier 2 for Tier 2, two years of teaching at Tier 2 can count toward the three-year probationary requirement. Teachers at Tier 3 have continuing contract rights after completion of the probationary period.

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*Revised July 6, 2023. Subject to change. [www.mn.gov/edp]
Tier 4 Licensure

Requirements

• Bachelor’s degree or falls under an exemption
• Completion of a teacher preparation program
• Three years of teaching experience

Eliminated Requirements (August 1, 2023)

• Minnesota-specific teaching experience
• Basic Skills Examination
• Summative Evaluation

Teachers who completed a teacher preparation program from another state but did not take or pass that state’s required licensure exams must complete applicable content and pedagogy exams.
Tiered Licensure

Tier 4 Licensure

Example

- Bachelor’s degree
- Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota
- Three years of teaching experience in Wisconsin

Prior to Legislative Changes: Teacher is eligible for a Tier 3 license

After Legislative Changes: Teacher is eligible for a Tier 4 license
Tiered Licensure

Tier 3 Licensure

Requirements

• Bachelor’s degree or falls under an exemption
• One of the following:
  • Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota
  • Completed a teacher preparation program in another state and completed student teaching
  • Completed licensure via portfolio
  • Hold a professional teaching license from another state and has two years of teaching experience
  • Three years of teaching experience on a Tier 2 license

Eliminated Requirements (August 1, 2023)

A teacher is exempt from content and pedagogy exam requirements if the teacher:

• Completed a teacher preparation program in Minnesota
• Completed a teacher preparation program in another state and completed that state’s exams (if applicable)
• Completed licensure via portfolio

Changes to Tier 2 licensure that go into effect July 1, 2024, will limit the teachers moving through this pathway
Tiered Licensure

Tier 3 Licensure

Example

- Bachelor’s degree
- Completion of a teacher preparation program
- Has not passed content and pedagogy exams

Prior to Legislative Changes:
Teacher is eligible for a Tier 2 license

After Legislative Changes:
Teacher is eligible for a Tier 3 license
Tiered Licensure

Tier 2 Licensure

Requirements

• Bachelor’s degree or falls under an exemption
• Meet one of the following:
  • Enrolled in a teacher preparation program in Minnesota
  • Hold a master's degree in the content area
  • Demonstrate two of the following:
    • Completion of a teacher preparation program
    • 8 upper division credits
    • Field-specific methods coursework
    • Passing scores on applicable MTLEs
    • Two years of teaching experience
• Job offer with Minnesota public or charter school

Eliminated Requirements
(July 1, 2024)

• The ability to use "two of the following" will no longer be an option to qualify for Tier 2 licensure
• Teachers who received their Tier 2 license based on the "two of the following" option will be able to use their Tier 2 through the 2025-2026 school year
  • Allows time to move to Tier 3 using the "Tier 2 to Tier 3 experience pathway"
Tiered Licensure

Tier 1 Licensure

Requirements

- Bachelor’s degree or falls under an exemption
- Job offer with Minnesota public or charter school
- District must verify:
  - Posted the position for 15 days (initial license) or 60 days (renewal)
  - No other Tier 2, 3, or 4 licensed teachers qualified for position

Eliminated Requirements

- No changes to Tier 1
Tiered Licensure

Tier 1 Licensure

Example

- **No** bachelor's degree
- 20+ years as a professional singer
- Formerly held a community expert permission

Prior to Legislative Changes:
Not eligible for licensure

After Legislative Changes:
Eligible for a Tier 1 license!
Tiered Licensure: BA Exemptions

**World Languages & Culture**
Native Speakers
(Attestation from hiring school district)

**Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, & Dance**
5 years of work experience aligned to the licensure field
(As verified by hiring school district or the prior employer)

**Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Career Pathways**
Professional Certification aligned to the licensure field sought
Associate's Degree aligned to the licensure field sought
5 years of work experience aligned to the licensure field sought
Pilot Short Call Sub Program

**Applicant Requirements**

- Associate's degree
- OR
- 1 or more years of experience as a Para/ESP with school district
  AND holds high school diploma

**District Requirements**

- Offered short call sub position to applicant
- Will provide short call sub training
- Obtained results of background check
- Must compensate sub with either $200/day or their regular rate of pay, whichever is higher

District and applicant must jointly apply for license.
District cannot require an individual to obtain license.

License is effective until June 30, 2025
Grants

CUGMEC

$5.34M (FY23)

Eligibility: Minnesota colleges and universities with a teacher preparation program

Uses: Scholarships, tutoring, mentoring

Awards: Late August 2023

Teacher Mentorship & Retention

$3.395M (FY23)

Eligibility: School district(s), coalition of teachers, some combination

Use: Stipends for mentor teachers, professional development, affinity groups

Awards: Late November/Early December

PPG

$400,000 (FY23)

Eligibility: School district, charter school, service cooperative, or partnership of one or more of the above

Uses: Enrollment in teacher preparation, professional development, mentorship

Award: Late November/Early December
District Hiring & Dismissal Report

Requirements

Minnesota Statutes 122A.40, subdivision 3 and Minnesota Statutes 122A.41

A school district must annually report to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board: (1) all new teacher hires and terminations, including layoffs, by race and ethnicity; and (2) the reasons for all teacher resignations and requested leaves of absence. The report must not include data that would personally identify individuals.

STAR Updates

- Changes to report educators hired and/or fired between last STAR report and now
- Addition of dates (month and year)
- Addition of hiring/dismissal codes
- PELSB and MN.IT staff are meeting with large vendors to work through changes.
News and Updates

Get the latest news from PELSB here. Check back often for updates on licensing, renewals, rulemaking, portfolio processes, and more.

2023 Legislative Updates regarding exemptions from the bachelor's degree requirement for licensure

July 13, 2023 | Legislative Changes | General

The 2023 Legislative Session ended on May 22. A number of statutory changes were made that impact teacher licensure, teacher preparation, grant recipients, and educational partners. This update focuses on legislative changes that impact teachers seeking a Tier 4 license.

4615 Rulemaking: Licensure & Permission Changes Effective July 1, 2023

July 7, 2023 | Board News | Tiered License Updates

The Professional Educator Licensure and Standards Board (PELSB) recently adopted a number of rule changes as part of its R-4615 rulemaking project. While some new rules went into effect on April 15, 2023, others had a July 1, 2023 effective date.

2023 Legislative Updates: PELSB to Launch Short Call Substitute Pilot Program August 1

July 5, 2023 | Legislative Changes | General

PELSB to Launch Short Call Substitute Pilot Program August 1

Governor Walz Appoints Four New Members

Resources
Questions

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