

2018 MSBA Legislative Agenda

The Minnesota School Boards Association, a leading advocate for public education supports, promotes, and strengthens the work of public school boards.



Students

There are 847,000 students enrolled in Minnesota public schools.



School Boards

More than 2,000 locally elected school board members are responsible for the governance of school property, budget, curriculum, technology, taxes, student achievement and teacher quality - ensuring excellence and equity in all public schools.



Demographics

English Learners	8.3%
Special Education	15.4%
Free and Reduced Lunch	37.7%
Homeless	1.0%
Graduation Rate	82.2%



MSBA Priorities:

Special Education

The special education cross-subsidy for FY 2016 was \$679 million and is expected to grow. The projected growth suggests it is time to create a work group to design a plan to eliminate the cross-subsidy.



Teacher Retirement

In the most recent proposal, the estimate to fund the employer portion of TRA was \$64 million each year. The employer contribution should be the state's responsibility, so as not to divert funds from the district's general education fund.



Fair Funding

- Oppose using tax credits and scholarships for private education.
- Inequities in funding continue to exist. Telecommunications Equity Aid, should be fully funded to ensure all schools have affordable access to high-speed Internet service.



School Readiness

Pathway II Scholarships play an important role in increasing the access to high-quality preschool for Minnesota's neediest early learners. Funding should be restored and increased.



Accountability

Align the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) statute with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to create one statewide accountability system.



Cyber Security

Schools are increasingly becoming targets for security breaches. Resources are needed to protect students, staff and parents with secure electronic systems.



School Trust Lands

In order to enforce the School Trust Lands director legislation that was passed in 2012, the role of director must be strengthened.



Ballot Language

As a bond expires and a new one proposed, ballot language should be changed to more accurately reflect the impact to the homeowner.



Teacher Shortage

Teacher shortage continues to be an issue. Alternative Pathways are necessary to attract non-traditional students into the teaching profession. The "Grow Your Own" program should be expanded to rural school districts.



@mnmsba



@mnmsba



Minnesota School Boards Association

Reminder of Educator Licensing Transition

The 2017 Omnibus Education bill created a new state agency called the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) consolidating the current duties and responsibilities of the Board of Teaching (BOT) and the Minnesota Department of Education's (MDE) Educator Licensing Division. Beginning January 1, 2018, the 11 member board and their staff will oversee teacher licensing, teacher preparation, and teacher ethics in Minnesota. The legislation also redesigned teacher licensure in Minnesota.

Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) Transition Highlights and Timeline

The law created PELSB to oversee and implement teacher licensing laws for the state of Minnesota. Beginning January 1, 2018, the current responsibilities carried out by MDE, Educator Licensing Division and the Board of Teaching will be consolidated into PELSB. PELSB will be responsible for (1) developing the teacher's code of ethics; (2) adopting rules to license public school teachers; (3) adopting rules for and approving teacher preparation programs; (4) issuing or denying license applications; (5) suspending, revoking, or denying a license based on qualifying grounds; and (6) verification of district and charter school licensure compliance.

On January 1, 2018, all staff currently employed by the MDE's Educator Licensing Division and their job responsibilities and all staff currently employed by BOT and their job responsibilities will become employees of PELSB.

What are the Changes for Customers?

- The PELSB office and monthly PELSB board meetings will continue to be at MDE.
- PELSB customers and visitors will go directly to the PELSB door where they will be buzzed in.
- Beginning January 1, 2018, all licensing information, including educator lookup, will be transferred to a new website <http://mn.gov/pelsb>.
- Beginning January 1, 2018, the current phone numbers for educator licensing will be disconnected. The new PELSB phone number is 651-539-4200.

Tier Licensure System Transition Highlights and Timeline

As a way to help transition current teachers into the new tiered system, on January 2018, all standard five year license expiration dates are extended by one year. Beginning July 2018, all new teacher licensing applications will follow the new tiered system and a new online licensing system will be launched. Beginning January 2019, all teacher licenses with an expiration of June 30, 2019, will begin renewing under the new tiered system.

Tiered Licensing System

- Tier 1 – Individuals and school districts or charter schools may apply for a Tier 1 license. The license is a one year license specific to a district or charter school and

specific to a content area. School may request up to three renewals, and more if “good cause” is proven, or if in a “shortage area” or for CTE licensure fields.

- Tier 2 – Individuals and school districts or charter schools may apply for a Tier 2 license. The license is a two year license specific to a district or charter school and specific to content area. The license can be renewed up to three times or more based on PELS adopted rules.
- Tier 3 – Individuals can apply for a Tier 3 license which is a three year license specific to a content area. Tier 3 licenses can be renewed an unlimited number of times as long as the individual meets licensure renewal requirements.
- Tier 4 – Individuals can apply for a Tier 4 license which is a five year license, specific to a content area. Tier 4 licenses can be renewed an unlimited number of times as long as the individual meets licensure renewal requirements.

Online System Availability

The online licensing system will be unavailable from 5 p.m. on December 27, 2017, until 8 a.m. on January 4, 2018, for system updates.

[Back to top](#)



[Manage Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#) | [website](#)

 SHARE

STAY CONNECTED:



Update your subscriptions, modify your password or e-mail address, or stop subscriptions at any time on your [Subscriber Preferences Page](#). You will need to use your e-mail address to log in. If you have questions or problems with the subscription service, please contact subscriberhelp.govdelivery.com.

This service is provided to you at no charge by [Minnesota Department of Education](#) 1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, Minnesota 55113 - 651.582.8200 Call: 651.582.8200.