

Subject Student teaching

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## Overview

To teach in a Minnesota school district or charter school, a teacher must have a license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB). Most teachers obtain their licenses by completing an approved teacher preparation program, though other pathways are available. A teacher preparation program obtains approval from PELSB, which is also responsible for approving teacher preparation providers that meet unit standards. Each teacher preparation program provides training specific to a type of license.

PELSB rules require teacher preparation programs to have a clinical experience component, where candidates complete at least 12 weeks of student teaching. However, state law allows teacher preparation programs to have a year-long student teaching experience.

State law establishes four tiers of teacher licensure: Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4. Each tier has different requirements, but generally the higher the tier, the more flexible the license and the longer the term of the license. A teacher who has a bachelor's degree and has completed an approved teacher program can qualify for a Tier 3 license, and later, a Tier 4 license. An applicant who is enrolled in a PELSB-approved preparation program can obtain a Tier 2 license as long as the application is submitted jointly by the applicant and the employing district, the applicant has a bachelor's degree (with some exceptions), and the applicant completes a background check. A Tier 2 license has a term of two years.

This bill requires teacher preparation programs applying for approval on or after July 1, 2030, to have year-long clinical experience programs. It requires PELSB to modify current rules relating to student teaching to require the year-long program and establish benchmarks the candidate must master and a process to evaluate whether a teacher has met the benchmarks.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Teacher preparation programs.</b></p> <p>Requires teacher preparation programs submitting applications on or after July 1, 2030, to include a year-long student teaching program.</p>
2	<p><b>Clinical experiences for teacher candidates.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Rulemaking.</b> Requires PELSB to modify existing rules relating to student teaching. The amended rules must require the candidate to participate in student teaching at least 80 percent of the contracted school week under a Tier 2 license, identify knowledge and skills the candidate must master, and establish a process to evaluate the candidate.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Mentorship and evaluation.</b> Requires the clinical experience to include professional development and supervision that exceeds the professional development and supervision normally required for a Tier 2 teacher, and is more similar to that required for a Tier 2 teacher in special education.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Teacher candidate.</b> Requires a teacher candidate to receive a stipend or salary and fringe benefits in accordance with an applicable collective bargaining agreement during the clinical experience.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Agreement.</b> Requires a school hosting a candidate for a clinical experience to enter into an agreement with the candidate’s teacher preparation program that addresses mentorship, teacher candidate compensation, compensation for the teacher of record employed by the host school, and other issues necessary to implement the clinical experience.</p> <p><b>Subd. 5. Guidance.</b> Requires PELSB to consult with teacher preparation program providers, school administrators, licensed teachers, and other stakeholders to identify statutory or regulatory changes that would facilitate the transition from a 12-week clinical experience requirement to an academic year-long clinical experience requirement. Requires a report to the legislature by January 15, 2028.</p>



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