

## Two major issues with changing the Licensure Grade Bands (R.C. 3319.22)

The Licensure Grade Band Changes will result in graduating teachers who have less than half of the appropriate content training in mathematics.

- Current 4-9 candidates at YSU who select Math as one of their two areas take seven math content courses (the MET II recommendation is at least 24 semester-hours).
- Current P-5 candidates at YSU take two math content courses.
- It would take eight mathematics content courses to ensure that K-8 candidates had appropriate math training to teach math at all the grade levels in that license.
- To keep the degree attainable in four years, it is likely that we will only be allowed two or three math content courses in the program.

The proposed Licensure Grade Band change will NOT make placement of graduating teachers easier or help to address teacher shortage situations. It will make both of these situations worse, not better.

- Many of the candidates who would have chosen the P-5 option will not want to teach in the higher grade levels and will go to another state or online to obtain a degree with an Early or Primary focus or may leave education altogether.
- Many of the candidates who would have chosen the 4-9 option will not want to teach all four subject areas and/or to teach early grades and will go to another state or online to obtain a degree to teach one or two specific contents in the Middle grades. These are our BEST math/science candidates for the middle grades. Some states are offering reduced tuition, shortage scholarships, and other incentives for Math/Science middle and high school teacher candidates. Only 5 states do NOT have a Middle Grades licensure (Roberts & Pachnowski – The Value of Middle Grades Licensure on K-12 Mathematics Achievement).
- Some universities have lower prerequisite requirements for students in the P-5 program than for students in the 4-9 program. If all education students are to be licensed for the entire K-8 grade span, the higher prerequisite requirements will need to be required for all education students.
- There will be significantly fewer candidates graduating with education degrees in Ohio if this change is made.

In summary, if the licensure grade bands are changed as proposed in R.C. 3319.22, this change will result in fewer graduating teachers and more significantly teachers who are not as well prepared to teach all the subjects in all of the grades of their license as current programs would have prepared them. Please consider a modification to HB 33 that deletes the Licensure Grade Band changes in article R.C. 3319.22.