



**Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee  
Occupational Licensure Review Testimony  
Paul Craft, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
State Board of Education**

**February 18, 2026**

Chair Manchester, Vice-Chair Brenner, Ranking Member Weinstein, and Members of the Senate General Government Committee, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on behalf of the State Board of Education (SBOE).

I am Paul Craft, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and I am pleased to come before you this afternoon to discuss the several occupational licenses that fall under the SBOE's jurisdiction. Joining me today are several members of our great team at SBOE. They are prepared to assist with any specific questions you may have at the conclusion of my testimony regarding specific licenses.

The State Board of Education is committed to providing trusted and professional support to Ohio's schools, staff, and students as an important part of Ohio's educational infrastructure. There is no more important duty than ensuring that each of Ohio's more than 1.6 million students interacts every day with well-qualified educators who display high levels of moral character and judgement.

The SBOE currently has over 499,000 credentials issued to 372,684 individuals. The difference in these numbers comes from individuals like me who hold two licenses.

The licenses we will be discussing today are:

- Adult Educator
- Alternative Administrative Specialist or Alternative Superintendent
- Alternative Military Educator
- Associate
- Alternative Principal and Bright New Leaders Alternative Principal
- Career-Technical Workforce Development Educator
- Computer Science Teaching License for Industry Professionals
- Educational Aide
- Educator License Validation in Financial Literacy
- Forty-Hour STEM or Dropout Recovery Community School Teaching Permit
- Nonpublic School Teacher or Administrator Certificate
- Out-of-State Educator License
- Pre-Service Teacher
- Professional Administrator

- Professional, Senior Professional, or Lead Professional Educator
- Professional Pupil Services License
- Professional School Business Manager and School Treasurer
- Provisional Licenses
- Pupil-Activity Program Permit
- Substitute Teaching License
- State board of Education Occupational Regulation Supplemental Teaching License
- Temporary Teaching License for Military Science
- Twelve-Hour Teaching Permit
- Visiting International Teacher License

Prior to discussing each of these specific licenses, I wanted to quickly discuss how most individuals apply for a license. To apply for an educator license applicants must first create an OHID account and user profile and request an Educator State ID. Once an applicant has taken this step, they may apply for their license through their Connected Ohio Records for Educators (CORE) Dashboard. Applicants must then complete their background checks and submit any required documentation such as official university transcripts or out-of-state teaching licenses. For Individuals renewing their license they will submit their renewal application through their CORE Dashboard along with any required documents and background checks which are required every five years or upon renewal of their license. Once an individual is issued a license, they are enrolled in the Rapback system. Rapback alerts our Office of Professional Conduct when an individual who has contact on a regular basis with students is arrested, enters a guilty plea, or is convicted of a criminal offense. The cost of Rapback is \$5 per individual entered into the system and is taken out of their licensing fee.

There are 24 licenses we will be discussing today. I will provide a brief description of each license, the number of those licenses currently issued, and the cost of each license.

### **Adult Educator**

The State Board of Education issues adult education permits to candidates who meet qualifications and have been hired to serve in Ohio school and district adult education programs, including Aspire programs and adult workforce education programs.

One-year and four-year adult education permits are available for candidates who meet qualifications and have been hired to serve in Ohio schools and school districts. The employing school or district must initiate and sign all applications for adult education permits. Please note that educators may work in any Ohio school district under their valid adult education permit.

Number of credentials in issued status: 3,485

Fee: \$25.00 (1-year) \$100.00 (4-year)

### **Alternative Administrative Specialist or Alternative Superintendent**

The State Board of Education provides qualified candidates with the option to pursue administrative specialist and superintendent licensure through completion of an alternative licensure pathway at the request of an employing Ohio school, district, or educational service center while serving in the respective position.

The Alternative Administrative Specialist License is a four-year nontraditional licensure pathway that allows candidates to work in an Ohio school district or community school as an administrative specialist while completing requirements for a professional administrative specialist license. The Alternative Superintendent four-year nontraditional licensure pathway allows candidates to work in an Ohio school district or community school or as a superintendent or assistant superintendent while completing requirements for a professional superintendent license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 245  
Fee: \$80.00 (2-year)

### **Alternative Military Educator**

The Alternative Military Resident Educator licensure pathway is an accelerated pathway to classroom teaching for active military personnel and veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

Number of credentials in issued status: 14  
Fee: \$0

### **Associate**

The State Board of Education issues associate licenses to prekindergarten teachers, paraprofessionals, interpreters for the hearing impaired, and occupational and physical therapy assistants who have successfully completed approved associate degree programs and exam requirements for the respective licensure area. Additionally, occupational and physical therapists must hold the requisite Ohio professional board license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 1,553  
Fee: \$200.00 (5-year)

### **Alternative Principal and Bright New Leaders Alternative Principal**

Note that the Bright New Leaders program does not fall under the purview of the State Board of Education.

This three-year nontraditional licensure pathway allows candidates to work in an Ohio school as a principal or assistant principal while completing requirements for a professional license. Applicants must have a principal or assistant principal position in an Ohio school or district and submit the following with their initial, online application for the 1-Year Alternative Principal license.

Candidates must submit a current board resolution from their employing school or district verifying the principal or assistant principal position in which they will serve, including grade levels.

Number of credentials in issued status: 290  
Fee: \$40 (1-year)

### **Career-Technical Workforce Development Educator**

Provisional career-technical workforce development (CTWD) licenses for grades 4-12 are available for applicants who meet qualifications and are completing approved pathways to obtain an advanced CTWD license.

The 2-Year Provisional CTWD license may be issued at the request of an employing Ohio district or career-technical workforce development center, provided the candidate has met all of the following requirements:

- Earned a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Has a minimum of five years of full-time work experience in the requested teaching field.
- Enrolled in an approved CTWD educator preparation program.

Number of credentials in issued status: 7,020  
Fee: \$80 (2-year)

### **Computer Science Teaching License for Industry Professionals**

The State Board of Education issues 40-hour temporary computer science licenses to industry professionals with work experience in computer science who do not already hold a standard teaching license. The license may only be used for teaching computer science in the grade band listed on the license for no more than 40 hours each week.

A renewable forty-hour temporary computer science teaching license shall be issued to industry professionals at the request of the superintendent of a city, local, exempted village, joint vocational school district, educational service center, or the governing board of a chartered non-public school or community school to an individual who:

- (1) Is deemed to be of good moral character;
- (2) Demonstrates, as verified by the employing school superintendent, five years of documented successful work experience or the equivalent in the area of computer science; and
- (3) Successfully completes the state board of education approved examination in the area of computer science

Number of credentials in issued status: 0  
Fee: \$40

### **Educational Aide**

The State Board of Education issues educational aide and student monitor permits to applicants who meet qualifications and have been hired to serve in Ohio schools, districts, and educational

service centers. These permits qualify an individual to perform educational assistant duties in a school, including the supervision of students and assistance with instructional tasks (in accordance with Ohio law).

Number of credentials in issued status: 47,783

Fee: \$25 (1-year to 4-year)

### **Educator License Validation in Financial Literacy**

The State Board of Education issues the financial literacy validation to licensed teachers who have successfully completed an approved training program through their employing Ohio school or district and exam requirement.

Number of credentials in issued status: 29

Fee: \$20

### **Forty-Hour STEM or Dropout Recovery Community School Teaching Permit**

Forty-hour temporary teaching permits are available for non-licensed candidates who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the subject area to be taught OR significant work experience in the subject area to be taught and have been hired to teach in an Ohio STEM school or dropout prevention and recovery community school for no more than 40 hours per week.

Number of credentials in issued status: 9

Fee: \$40 (1-year)

### **Nonpublic School Teacher or Administrator Certificate**

Valid for teaching, administration and supervision in Ohio chartered nonpublic schools. Candidates must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree conferred from an accredited college or university. Permanent Non-tax Certificates – Non-tax, Non-bachelor's Degree. Valid only for teaching world languages, music, religion, computer technology or fine arts in Ohio chartered non-public schools. The superintendent or chief administrative officer must verify candidates' qualifications to teach in the available teaching fields. A bachelor's degree is not required for this certificate.

Number of credentials in issued status: 23,686

Fee: \$200

### **Out-of-State Educator License**

Candidates who completed an out-of-state licensure program should review the information on this page regarding Ohio's licensure requirements and the online application process. Candidates must submit the online application and all required documentation to begin the evaluation process and determine eligibility for an Ohio license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 138

Fee: \$40 (1-year)

### **Pre-Service Teacher**

Students enrolled in a course within an educator preparation program leading to an Ohio teaching license, who will also be in an Ohio P-12 classroom as part of that course, are required to obtain a pre-service teacher permit unless they hold an active Resident Educator or Ohio professional educator license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 17,677

Fee: \$75 (3-years)

### **Professional Administrator**

The professional administrator license shall be issued to an individual who holds a master's degree, who is deemed to be of good moral character, who has successfully completed an approved program of preparation for the licensure area sought, and who has been recommended by the dean or head of teacher education at an institution approved to prepare administrators, who has successfully completed an examination prescribed by the state board of education.

Number of credentials in issued status: 26,236

Fee: \$200 (5-year)

### **Professional, Senior Professional, or Lead Professional Educator**

Professional teaching licenses are issued to candidates who have successfully completed the Ohio Resident Educator Program or who have at least two years of successful teaching experience under a standard out-of-state teaching license.

In 2009, Ohio restructured its teacher licensure system and established a career ladder for educators. The four-tiered system provides opportunities for teachers to advance in their professional careers and serve as school improvement leaders, without leaving the teaching profession. The senior professional educator license is the next advanced step on the career ladder after a professional teaching license. The lead professional educator license is the next advanced step on the career ladder after a senior professional educator license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 188,614

Fee: \$200 (5-year)

### **Professional Pupil Services License**

The State Board of Education issues pupil services licenses to candidates who have completed an approved preparation program for the requested licensure area through an accredited college or university, hold the requisite Ohio professional board license, and provide pupil services in a P-12 school environment (including, but not limited to school nurses, school social workers, and school speech-language pathologists).

Number of credentials in issued status: 20,875

Fee: \$200 (5-year)

### **Professional School Business Manager and School Treasurer**

The State Board of Education issues school business manager and school treasurer licenses to candidates who hold at least a bachelor's degree and have completed education, field experience, and exam requirements.

Number of credentials in issued status: 1,736

Fee: \$200 (5-year)

### **Provisional Licenses**

**Standard Resident Educator** licenses are issued to beginning teachers who have completed an approved, traditional teacher preparation program through an accredited college or university.

**Alternative Resident Educator** licenses are issued to qualified candidates who are completing the Ohio Alternative Resident Educator licensure pathway, an accelerated pathway for candidates who did not complete a traditional teacher preparation program through an accredited college or university.

Number of credentials in issued status: 946

Fee: \$40 to \$160 (1-year to 4-year)

### **Pupil-Activity Program Permit**

Pupil-activity program permits are required for individuals who will direct, supervise, or coach a student activity program that involves athletics, routine or regular physical activity, or activities with health and safety considerations. Candidates must complete all required training certifications to obtain pupil activity permits.

Number of credentials in issued status: 63,981

Fee: \$45 (1-year) \$60 (4-year) \$75 (5-year)

### **Substitute Teaching License**

The State Board of Education issues substitute teaching licenses based on varying qualifications. Substitute licenses are issued to non-degree holders, bachelorette or higher degree holders or career technical workforce development fields based on experience and recommendation of the Superintendent.

Number of credentials in issued status: 39,146

Fee: \$25 (1-year) \$125 (5-year)

### **State board of Education Occupational Regulation Supplemental Teaching License**

The State Board of Education provides licensed Ohio teachers with the option to pursue additional teacher licensure through a supplemental pathway at the request of their employing Ohio school or district. The accelerated pathway allows teachers to complete requirements while working in classrooms.

Number of credentials in issued status: 1,688  
Fee: \$40 (1-year)

### **Temporary Teaching License for Military Science**

Temporary military science teaching licenses are available for applicants who meet qualifications and have been hired to teach in junior reserve officer training corps (JROTC) programs in Ohio schools or districts.

Number of credentials in issued status: 112  
Fee: \$25 (1-year)

### **Twelve-Hour Teaching Permit**

Twelve-hour temporary teaching permits are available for non-licensed individuals who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited university in the subject area to be taught OR significant work experience in the subject area to be taught and have been hired to teach in an Ohio school district for no more than 12 hours per week.

Number of credentials in issued status: 48  
Fee: \$40 (1-year)

### **Visiting International Teacher License**

Visiting international teacher licenses are available for applicants who meet qualifications and have been hired to teach in Ohio schools or districts via an exchange program or other recruitment effort. The license is issued at the request of an employing Ohio school or district for a visiting teacher who is a citizen of another country. The non-renewable license will be valid only in the employing school or district and only for the grade levels and subject areas listed on the license.

Number of credentials in issued status: 112  
Fee: \$120 (3-year)

Madame Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today. At this time, my team and I are happy to answer any questions you have. Thank you.