

**As Introduced**

**136th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2025-2026**

**S. B. No. 144**

**Senator Ingram**

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**A BILL**

To amend sections 3319.079 and 3319.22 of the 1  
Revised Code regarding educator license grade 2  
bands. 3

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That sections 3319.079 and 3319.22 of the 4  
Revised Code be amended to read as follows: 5

**Sec. 3319.079.** (A) The holder of a valid educator license 6  
with a grade band specification prescribed under division (A) (1) 7  
of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division existed 8  
prior to October 3, 2023, who renews that license may receive 9  
either of the following: 10

(1) A grade band specification prescribed under division 11  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division 12  
existed prior to October 3, 2023; 13

(2) A grade band specification prescribed under division 14  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code as that division 15  
exists on the date of its renewal. 16

(B) The holder of a valid educator license with a grade 17  
band specification prescribed under division (A) (1) of section 18

3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division existed on and 19  
after October 3, 2023, but prior to ~~the effective date of this~~ 20  
~~amendment~~ October 24, 2024, who renews that license may receive 21  
either of the following: 22

(1) A grade band specification prescribed under division 23  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division 24  
existed on and after October 3, 2023, but prior to ~~the effective~~ 25  
~~date of this amendment~~ October 24, 2024; 26

(2) A grade band specification prescribed under division 27  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code as that division 28  
exists on the date of its renewal. 29

(C) The holder of a valid educator license with a grade 30  
band specification prescribed under division (A) (1) of section 31  
3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division existed on and 32  
after October 24, 2024, but prior to the effective date of this 33  
amendment, who renews that license may receive either of the 34  
following: 35

(1) A grade band specification prescribed under division 36  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division 37  
existed on and after October 24, 2024, but prior to the 38  
effective date of this amendment; 39

(2) A grade band specification prescribed under division 40  
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code as that division 41  
exists on the date of its renewal. 42

(D) Upon renewal of a license under this section, the 43  
holder of a valid educator license shall receive a grade band 44  
specification that includes one or more of the grades the holder 45  
was authorized to teach under the prior license. 46

**Sec. 3319.22.** (A) (1) The state board of education shall 47

issue the following educator licenses: 48

(a) A resident educator license, which shall be valid for 49  
two years and shall be renewable for reasons specified by rules 50  
adopted by the state board pursuant to division (A)(3) of this 51  
section. The state board, on a case-by-case basis, may extend 52  
the license's duration as necessary to enable the license holder 53  
to complete the Ohio teacher residency program established under 54  
section 3319.223 of the Revised Code~~+~~. 55

(b) A professional educator license, which shall be valid 56  
for five years and shall be renewable; 57

(c) A senior professional educator license, which shall be 58  
valid for five years and shall be renewable; 59

(d) A lead professional educator license, which shall be 60  
valid for five years and shall be renewable. 61

Subject to division (A)(4) of this section, licenses 62  
issued under division (A)(1) of this section on and after ~~the~~ 63  
~~effective date of this amendment~~ the effective date of this 64  
amendment shall specify whether the educator is licensed to 65  
teach grades pre-kindergarten through ~~eight-five~~, grades four 66  
through nine, or grades seven through twelve. The changes to the 67  
grade band specifications under this section shall not apply to 68  
a person who holds a license under division (A)(1) of this 69  
section prior to ~~the effective date of this amendment~~ the 70  
effective date of this amendment. Further, the changes to the 71  
grade band specifications under this section shall not apply to 72  
any license issued to teach in the area of computer information 73  
science, bilingual education, dance, drama or theater, world 74  
language, health, library or media, music, physical education, 75  
teaching English to speakers of other languages, career- 76

technical education, or visual arts or to any license issued to 77  
an intervention specialist, including a gifted intervention 78  
specialist, or to any other license that does not align to the 79  
grade band specifications. 80

(2) (a) Except as provided in division (A) (2) (b) of this 81  
section, the state board may issue any additional educator 82  
licenses of categories, types, and levels the board elects to 83  
provide. 84

(b) Not later than December 31, 2024, the state board 85  
shall cease licensing school psychologists. The state board 86  
shall coordinate with the state board of psychology to 87  
transition to licensure under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code 88  
any school psychologists licensed under rules adopted in 89  
accordance with sections 3301.07 and 3319.22 of the Revised 90  
Code. 91

(3) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 92  
the state board shall adopt rules establishing the standards and 93  
requirements for obtaining each educator license issued under 94  
this section. The rules shall also include the reasons for which 95  
a resident educator license may be renewed under division (A) (1) 96  
(a) of this section. 97

(4) Notwithstanding the requirement that each license 98  
issued under division (A) (1) of this section specify the grade 99  
band in which the educator is licensed to teach, a school 100  
district or community school may employ an educator to teach 101  
outside of the designated grade band by not more than two grade 102  
levels and for not more than two school years at a time. The 103  
school district superintendent or governing authority of the 104  
community school may renew that teacher's eligibility to teach 105  
in accordance with this division on a biennial basis. Any 106

educator to whom division (A) (4) of this section applies shall 107  
be considered a "properly certified or licensed teacher" for the 108  
purposes of section 3319.074 of the Revised Code. 109

(B) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 110  
the rules adopted under this section shall require at least the 111  
following standards and qualifications for the educator licenses 112  
described in division (A) (1) of this section: 113

(1) An applicant for a resident educator license shall 114  
hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited teacher 115  
preparation program or be a participant in the teach for America 116  
program and meet the qualifications required under section 117  
3319.227 of the Revised Code. 118

(2) An applicant for a professional educator license 119  
shall: 120

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 121  
of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting 122  
organization; 123

(b) Have successfully completed the Ohio teacher residency 124  
program established under section 3319.223 of the Revised Code, 125  
if the applicant's current or most recently issued license is a 126  
resident educator license issued under this section or an 127  
alternative resident educator license issued under section 128  
3319.26 of the Revised Code. 129

(3) An applicant for a senior professional educator 130  
license shall: 131

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 132  
of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting 133  
organization; 134

(b) Have previously held a professional educator license 135  
issued under this section or section 3319.222 or under former 136  
section 3319.22 of the Revised Code; 137

(c) Meet the criteria for the accomplished or 138  
distinguished level of performance, as described in the 139  
standards for teachers adopted by the state board under section 140  
3319.61 of the Revised Code. 141

(4) An applicant for a lead professional educator license 142  
shall: 143

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 144  
of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting 145  
organization; 146

(b) Have previously held a professional educator license 147  
or a senior professional educator license issued under this 148  
section or a professional educator license issued under section 149  
3319.222 or former section 3319.22 of the Revised Code; 150

(c) Meet the criteria for the distinguished level of 151  
performance, as described in the standards for teachers adopted 152  
by the state board under section 3319.61 of the Revised Code; 153

(d) Either hold a valid certificate issued by the national 154  
board for professional teaching standards or meet the criteria 155  
for a master teacher or other criteria for a lead teacher 156  
adopted by the educator standards board under division (F) (4) or 157  
(5) of section 3319.61 of the Revised Code. 158

(C) The state board shall align the standards and 159  
qualifications for obtaining a principal license with the 160  
standards for principals adopted by the state board under 161  
section 3319.61 of the Revised Code. 162

(D) If the state board requires any examinations for 163  
educator licensure, the state board shall provide the results of 164  
such examinations received by the state board to the chancellor 165  
of higher education, in the manner and to the extent permitted 166  
by state and federal law. 167

(E) Any rules the state board of education adopts, amends, 168  
or rescinds for educator licenses under this section or any 169  
other law shall be adopted, amended, or rescinded under Chapter 170  
119. of the Revised Code except as follows: 171

(1) Notwithstanding division (E) of section 119.03 and 172  
division (A)(1) of section 119.04 of the Revised Code, in the 173  
case of the adoption of any rule or the amendment or rescission 174  
of any rule that necessitates institutions' offering preparation 175  
programs for educators and other school personnel that are 176  
approved by the chancellor of higher education under section 177  
3333.048 of the Revised Code to revise the curriculum of those 178  
programs, the effective date shall not be as prescribed in 179  
division (E) of section 119.03 and division (A)(1) of section 180  
119.04 of the Revised Code. Instead, the effective date of such 181  
rules, or the amendment or rescission of such rules, shall be 182  
the date prescribed by section 3333.048 of the Revised Code. 183

(2) Notwithstanding the authority to adopt, amend, or 184  
rescind emergency rules in division (G) of section 119.03 of the 185  
Revised Code, this authority shall not apply to the state board 186  
of education with regard to rules for educator licenses. 187

(F)(1) The rules adopted under this section establishing 188  
standards requiring additional coursework for the renewal of any 189  
educator license shall require a school district and a chartered 190  
nonpublic school to establish local professional development 191  
committees. In a nonpublic school, the chief administrative 192

officer shall establish the committees in any manner acceptable 193  
to such officer. The committees established under this division 194  
shall determine whether coursework that a district or chartered 195  
nonpublic school teacher proposes to complete meets the 196  
requirement of the rules. The state board shall provide 197  
technical assistance and support to committees as the committees 198  
incorporate the professional development standards adopted 199  
pursuant to section 3319.61 of the Revised Code into their 200  
review of coursework that is appropriate for license renewal. 201  
The rules shall establish a procedure by which a teacher may 202  
appeal the decision of a local professional development 203  
committee. 204

(2) In any school district in which there is no exclusive 205  
representative established under Chapter 4117. of the Revised 206  
Code, the professional development committees shall be 207  
established as described in division (F) (2) of this section. 208

Not later than the effective date of the rules adopted 209  
under this section, the board of education of each school 210  
district shall establish the structure for one or more local 211  
professional development committees to be operated by such 212  
school district. The committee structure so established by a 213  
district board shall remain in effect unless within thirty days 214  
prior to an anniversary of the date upon which the current 215  
committee structure was established, the board provides notice 216  
to all affected district employees that the committee structure 217  
is to be modified. Professional development committees may have 218  
a district-level or building-level scope of operations, and may 219  
be established with regard to particular grade or age levels for 220  
which an educator license is designated. 221

Each professional development committee shall consist of 222



at least three classroom teachers employed by the district, one 223  
principal employed by the district, and one other employee of 224  
the district appointed by the district superintendent. For 225  
committees with a building-level scope, the teacher and 226  
principal members shall be assigned to that building, and the 227  
teacher members shall be elected by majority vote of the 228  
classroom teachers assigned to that building. For committees 229  
with a district-level scope, the teacher members shall be 230  
elected by majority vote of the classroom teachers of the 231  
district, and the principal member shall be elected by a 232  
majority vote of the principals of the district, unless there 233  
are two or fewer principals employed by the district, in which 234  
case the one or two principals employed shall serve on the 235  
committee. If a committee has a particular grade or age level 236  
scope, the teacher members shall be licensed to teach such grade 237  
or age levels, and shall be elected by majority vote of the 238  
classroom teachers holding such a license and the principal 239  
shall be elected by all principals serving in buildings where 240  
any such teachers serve. The district superintendent shall 241  
appoint a replacement to fill any vacancy that occurs on a 242  
professional development committee, except in the case of 243  
vacancies among the elected classroom teacher members, which 244  
shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the 245  
committee so selected. 246

Terms of office on professional development committees 247  
shall be prescribed by the district board establishing the 248  
committees. The conduct of elections for members of professional 249  
development committees shall be prescribed by the district board 250  
establishing the committees. A professional development 251  
committee may include additional members, except that the 252  
majority of members on each such committee shall be classroom 253

teachers employed by the district. Any member appointed to fill 254  
a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for 255  
which a predecessor was appointed shall hold office as a member 256  
for the remainder of that term. 257

The initial meeting of any professional development 258  
committee, upon election and appointment of all committee 259  
members, shall be called by a member designated by the district 260  
superintendent. At this initial meeting, the committee shall 261  
select a chairperson and such other officers the committee deems 262  
necessary, and shall adopt rules for the conduct of its 263  
meetings. Thereafter, the committee shall meet at the call of 264  
the chairperson or upon the filing of a petition with the 265  
district superintendent signed by a majority of the committee 266  
members calling for the committee to meet. 267

(3) In the case of a school district in which an exclusive 268  
representative has been established pursuant to Chapter 4117. of 269  
the Revised Code, professional development committees shall be 270  
established in accordance with any collective bargaining 271  
agreement in effect in the district that includes provisions for 272  
such committees. 273

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 274  
different method for the selection of teacher members of the 275  
committees, the exclusive representative of the district's 276  
teachers shall select the teacher members. 277

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 278  
different structure for the committees, the board of education 279  
of the school district shall establish the structure, including 280  
the number of committees and the number of teacher and 281  
administrative members on each committee; the specific 282  
administrative members to be part of each committee; whether the 283

scope of the committees will be district levels, building 284  
levels, or by type of grade or age levels for which educator 285  
licenses are designated; the lengths of terms for members; the 286  
manner of filling vacancies on the committees; and the frequency 287  
and time and place of meetings. However, in all cases, except as 288  
provided in division (F)(4) of this section, there shall be a 289  
majority of teacher members of any professional development 290  
committee, there shall be at least five total members of any 291  
professional development committee, and the exclusive 292  
representative shall designate replacement members in the case 293  
of vacancies among teacher members, unless the collective 294  
bargaining agreement specifies a different method of selecting 295  
such replacements. 296

(4) Whenever an administrator's coursework plan is being 297  
discussed or voted upon, the local professional development 298  
committee shall, at the request of one of its administrative 299  
members, cause a majority of the committee to consist of 300  
administrative members by reducing the number of teacher members 301  
voting on the plan. 302

(5) A professional development committee may grant an 303  
individual seeking to renew a license under this section credit 304  
towards continuing education requirements for completion of a 305  
statutorily required professional development training. Such an 306  
individual shall receive continuing education credit for one 307  
completed professional development course per licensure renewal 308  
period. To qualify for continuing education credit under this 309  
division, a professional development course shall be completed 310  
during the time in which an individual holds a valid license 311  
under this section. 312

(G) (1) The state board of education, educational service 313

centers, county boards of developmental disabilities, college 314  
and university departments of education, head start programs, 315  
and the Ohio education computer network may establish local 316  
professional development committees to determine whether the 317  
coursework proposed by their employees who are licensed or 318  
certificated under this section or section 3319.222 of the 319  
Revised Code, or under the former version of either section as 320  
it existed prior to October 16, 2009, meet the requirements of 321  
the rules adopted under this section. They may establish local 322  
professional development committees on their own or in 323  
collaboration with a school district or other agency having 324  
authority to establish them. 325

Local professional development committees established by 326  
county boards of developmental disabilities shall be structured 327  
in a manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 328  
districts in divisions (F)(2) and (3) of this section, as shall 329  
the committees established by any other entity specified in 330  
division (G)(1) of this section that provides educational 331  
services by employing or contracting for services of classroom 332  
teachers licensed or certificated under this section or section 333  
3319.222 of the Revised Code, or under the former version of 334  
either section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009. All 335  
other entities specified in division (G)(1) of this section 336  
shall structure their committees in accordance with guidelines 337  
which shall be issued by the state board. 338

(2) Educational service centers may establish local 339  
professional development committees to serve educators who are 340  
not employed in schools in this state, including pupil services 341  
personnel who are licensed under this section. Local 342  
professional development committees shall be structured in a 343  
manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 344

districts in divisions (F) (2) and (3) of this section. 345

These committees may agree to review the coursework, 346  
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities 347  
related to classroom teaching or the area of licensure that is 348  
proposed by an individual who satisfies both of the following 349  
conditions: 350

(a) The individual is licensed or certificated under this 351  
section or under the former version of this section as it 352  
existed prior to October 16, 2009. 353

(b) The individual is not currently employed as an 354  
educator or is not currently employed by an entity that operates 355  
a local professional development committee under this section. 356

Any committee that agrees to work with such an individual 357  
shall work to determine whether the proposed coursework, 358  
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities meet 359  
the requirements of the rules adopted by the state board under 360  
this section. 361

(3) Any public agency that is not specified in division 362  
(G) (1) or (2) of this section but provides educational services 363  
and employs or contracts for services of classroom teachers 364  
licensed or certificated under this section or section 3319.222 365  
of the Revised Code, or under the former version of either 366  
section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, may establish a 367  
local professional development committee, subject to the 368  
approval of the state board. The committee shall be structured 369  
in accordance with guidelines issued by the state board. 370

(H) The state board, in accordance with Chapter 119. of 371  
the Revised Code, shall adopt rules pursuant to division (A) (3) 372  
of this section that do both of the following: 373

(1) Exempt consistently high-performing teachers and 374  
school counselors from the requirement to complete any 375  
additional coursework for the renewal of an educator license 376  
issued under this section or section 3319.26 of the Revised 377  
Code. The rules also shall specify that such teachers and school 378  
counselors are exempt from any requirements prescribed by 379  
professional development committees established under divisions 380  
(F) and (G) of this section. 381

(2) For purposes of division (H)(1) of this section, the 382  
term "consistently high-performing teacher or school counselor" 383  
means any teacher or school counselor who meets both of the 384  
following: 385

(a) For at least four of the past five years, the teacher 386  
or school counselor has received the highest level of 387  
performance rating under section 3319.112 or 3319.113 of the 388  
Revised Code, as applicable, or an equivalent performance rating 389  
under section 3311.80 of the Revised Code; 390

(b) The teacher or school counselor meets at least one, or 391  
any combination, of the following for at least three of the five 392  
years of the current licensure cycle: 393

(i) Holds a valid senior or lead professional educator 394  
license; 395

(ii) Holds a locally recognized educational leadership 396  
role that enhances educational practices by providing 397  
professional learning experience at district, regional, state, 398  
or higher educational level; 399

(iii) Serves in a leadership role for a national or state 400  
professional academic education organization; 401

(iv) Serves on a state-level committee supporting 402

education; 403

(v) Receives a state or national educational recognition 404  
or award. 405

(I) The state board shall issue a resident educator 406  
license, professional educator license, senior professional 407  
educator license, lead professional educator license, or any 408  
other educator license in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the 409  
Revised Code to an applicant if either of the following applies: 410

(1) The applicant holds a license in another state. 411

(2) The applicant has satisfactory work experience, a 412  
government certification, or a private certification as 413  
described in that chapter as a resident educator, professional 414  
educator, senior professional educator, lead professional 415  
educator, or any other type of educator in a state that does not 416  
issue one or more of those licenses. 417

**Section 2.** That existing sections 3319.079 and 3319.22 of 418  
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 419