

As Introduced

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

S. B. No. 144

Senator Ingram

A BILL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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