

As Reported by the Senate Education Committee

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

Sub. S. B. No. 144

Senator Ingram

To amend sections 3319.079 and 3319.22 of the
Revised Code regarding educator licensure.

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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:

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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:

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(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;

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

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(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
after October 3, 2023, but prior to ~~the effective date of this~~
~~amendment~~ October 24, 2024, who renews that license may receive

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either of the following: 21

(1) A grade band specification prescribed under division 22
(A) (1) of section 3319.22 of the Revised Code, as that division 23
existed on and after October 3, 2023, but prior to ~~the effective~~ 24
~~date of this amendment~~ October 24, 2024; 25

(2) A grade band specification prescribed under ~~division~~ 26
~~(A) (1) of~~ section 3319.22 of the Revised Code as that ~~division~~ 27
section exists on the date of its renewal. 28

(C) Upon renewal of a license under this section, the 29
holder of a valid educator license shall receive a grade band 30
specification that includes one or more of the grades the holder 31
was authorized to teach under the prior license. 32

Sec. 3319.22. (A) (1) The state board of education shall 33
issue the following educator licenses: 34

(a) A resident educator license, which shall be valid for 35
two years and shall be renewable for reasons specified by rules 36
adopted by the state board pursuant to division (A) (3) of this 37
section. The state board, on a case-by-case basis, may extend 38
the license's duration as necessary to enable the license holder 39
to complete the Ohio teacher residency program established under 40
section 3319.223 of the Revised Code~~+~~. 41

(b) A professional educator license, which shall be valid 42
for five years and shall be renewable; 43

(c) A senior professional educator license, which shall be 44
valid for five years and shall be renewable; 45

(d) A lead professional educator license, which shall be 46
valid for five years and shall be renewable. 47

~~Subject to division (A) (4) of this section, licenses~~ 48

~~issued under division (A) (1) of this section on and after the~~ 49
~~effective date of this amendment shall specify whether the~~ 50
~~educator is licensed to teach grades pre-kindergarten through~~ 51
~~eight or grades seven through twelve. The changes to the grade~~ 52
~~band specifications under this section shall not apply to a~~ 53
~~person who holds a license under division (A) (1) of this section~~ 54
~~prior to the effective date of this amendment. Further, the~~ 55
~~changes to the grade band specifications under this section~~ 56
~~shall not apply to any license issued to teach in the area of~~ 57
~~computer information science, bilingual education, dance, drama~~ 58
~~or theater, world language, health, library or media, music,~~ 59
~~physical education, teaching English to speakers of other~~ 60
~~languages, career-technical education, or visual arts or to any~~ 61
~~license issued to an intervention specialist, including a gifted~~ 62
~~intervention specialist, or to any other license that does not~~ 63
~~align to the grade band specifications.~~ 64

(2) (a) Except as provided in division (A) (2) (b) of this 65
section, the state board may issue any additional educator 66
licenses of categories, types, and levels the board elects to 67
provide. 68

(b) Not later than December 31, 2024, the state board 69
shall cease licensing school psychologists. The state board 70
shall coordinate with the state board of psychology to 71
transition to licensure under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code 72
any school psychologists licensed under rules adopted in 73
accordance with sections 3301.07 and 3319.22 of the Revised 74
Code. 75

(3) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 76
the state board shall adopt rules establishing the standards and 77
requirements for obtaining each educator license issued under 78

this section. The rules shall also include the reasons for which 79
a resident educator license may be renewed under division (A) (1) 80
(a) of this section. 81

(4) Subject to division (A) (5) of this section, licenses 82
issued under division (A) (1) of this section on and after the 83
effective date of this amendment shall specify whether the 84
educator is licensed to teach one of the following: 85

(a) Grades pre-kindergarten through five. The state board 86
shall at least issue licenses for grades pre-kindergarten 87
through five that authorize a license holder to provide either 88
general education instruction or both general and special 89
education instruction. 90

(b) Grades four through eight. The state board shall at 91
least issue a license for grades four through eight that 92
authorizes license holders to provide general education 93
instruction. 94

(c) Grades seven through twelve. 95

The changes to the grade band specifications under this 96
section do not apply to a person who holds a license under 97
division (A) (1) of this section prior to the effective date of 98
this amendment. Further, the changes to the grade band 99
specifications under this section do not apply to any license 100
issued to teach in the area of computer information science, 101
bilingual education, dance, drama or theater, world language, 102
health, library or media, music, physical education, teaching 103
English to speakers of other languages, career-technical 104
education, or visual arts or to any license issued to an 105
intervention specialist, including a gifted intervention 106
specialist, or to any other license that does not align to the 107

grade band specifications. 108

(5) Notwithstanding the requirement that each license 109
issued under division (A) (1) of this section specify the grade 110
band in which the educator is licensed to teach, a school 111
district or community school may employ an educator who has at 112
least one year of experience as a licensed classroom teacher to 113
teach outside of the designated grade band by not more than two 114
grade levels and for not more than two school years at a time. 115
The school district superintendent or governing authority of the 116
community school may renew that teacher's eligibility to teach 117
in accordance with this division on a biennial basis. Any 118
educator to whom division ~~(A) (4)~~ (A) (5) of this section applies 119
shall be considered a "properly certified or licensed teacher" 120
for the purposes of section 3319.074 of the Revised Code. 121

(B) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 122
the rules adopted under this section shall require at least the 123
following standards and qualifications for the educator licenses 124
described in division (A) (1) of this section: 125

(1) An applicant for a resident educator license shall 126
hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited teacher 127
preparation program or be a participant in the teach for America 128
program and meet the qualifications required under section 129
3319.227 of the Revised Code. 130

(2) An applicant for a professional educator license 131
shall: 132

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 133
of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting 134
organization; 135

(b) Have successfully completed the Ohio teacher residency 136

program established under section 3319.223 of the Revised Code, 137
if the applicant's current or most recently issued license is a 138
resident educator license issued under this section or an 139
alternative resident educator license issued under section 140
3319.26 of the Revised Code. 141

(3) An applicant for a senior professional educator 142
license 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
issued under this section or section 3319.222 or under former 148
section 3319.22 of the Revised Code; 149

(c) Meet the criteria for the accomplished or 150
distinguished level of performance, as described in the 151
standards for teachers adopted by the state board under section 152
3319.61 of the Revised Code. 153

(4) An applicant for a lead professional educator license 154
shall: 155

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 156
of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting 157
organization; 158

(b) Have previously held a professional educator license 159
or a senior professional educator license issued under this 160
section or a professional educator license issued under section 161
3319.222 or former section 3319.22 of the Revised Code; 162

(c) Meet the criteria for the distinguished level of 163
performance, as described in the standards for teachers adopted 164

by the state board under section 3319.61 of the Revised Code; 165

(d) Either hold a valid certificate issued by the national 166
board for professional teaching standards or meet the criteria 167
for a master teacher or other criteria for a lead teacher 168
adopted by the educator standards board under division (F) (4) or 169
(5) of section 3319.61 of the Revised Code. 170

(C) The state board shall align the standards and 171
qualifications for obtaining a principal license with the 172
standards for principals adopted by the state board under 173
section 3319.61 of the Revised Code. 174

(D) If the state board requires any examinations for 175
educator licensure, the state board shall provide the results of 176
such examinations received by the state board to the chancellor 177
of higher education, in the manner and to the extent permitted 178
by state and federal law. 179

(E) Any rules the state board of education adopts, amends, 180
or rescinds for educator licenses under this section or any 181
other law shall be adopted, amended, or rescinded under Chapter 182
119. of the Revised Code except as follows: 183

(1) Notwithstanding division (E) of section 119.03 and 184
division (A) (1) of section 119.04 of the Revised Code, in the 185
case of the adoption of any rule or the amendment or rescission 186
of any rule that necessitates institutions' offering preparation 187
programs for educators and other school personnel that are 188
approved by the chancellor of higher education under section 189
3333.048 of the Revised Code to revise the curriculum of those 190
programs, the effective date shall not be as prescribed in 191
division (E) of section 119.03 and division (A) (1) of section 192
119.04 of the Revised Code. Instead, the effective date of such 193

rules, or the amendment or rescission of such rules, shall be 194
the date prescribed by section 3333.048 of the Revised Code. 195

(2) Notwithstanding the authority to adopt, amend, or 196
rescind emergency rules in division (G) of section 119.03 of the 197
Revised Code, this authority shall not apply to the state board 198
of education with regard to rules for educator licenses. 199

(F) (1) The rules adopted under this section establishing 200
standards requiring additional coursework for the renewal of any 201
educator license shall require a school district and a chartered 202
nonpublic school to establish local professional development 203
committees. In a nonpublic school, the chief administrative 204
officer shall establish the committees in any manner acceptable 205
to such officer. The committees established under this division 206
shall determine whether coursework that a district or chartered 207
nonpublic school teacher proposes to complete meets the 208
requirement of the rules. The state board shall provide 209
technical assistance and support to committees as the committees 210
incorporate the professional development standards adopted 211
pursuant to section 3319.61 of the Revised Code into their 212
review of coursework that is appropriate for license renewal. 213
The rules shall establish a procedure by which a teacher may 214
appeal the decision of a local professional development 215
committee. 216

(2) In any school district in which there is no exclusive 217
representative established under Chapter 4117. of the Revised 218
Code, the professional development committees shall be 219
established as described in division (F) (2) of this section. 220

Not later than the effective date of the rules adopted 221
under this section, the board of education of each school 222
district shall establish the structure for one or more local 223

professional development committees to be operated by such 224
school district. The committee structure so established by a 225
district board shall remain in effect unless within thirty days 226
prior to an anniversary of the date upon which the current 227
committee structure was established, the board provides notice 228
to all affected district employees that the committee structure 229
is to be modified. Professional development committees may have 230
a district-level or building-level scope of operations, and may 231
be established with regard to particular grade or age levels for 232
which an educator license is designated. 233

Each professional development committee shall consist of 234
at least three classroom teachers employed by the district, one 235
principal employed by the district, and one other employee of 236
the district appointed by the district superintendent. For 237
committees with a building-level scope, the teacher and 238
principal members shall be assigned to that building, and the 239
teacher members shall be elected by majority vote of the 240
classroom teachers assigned to that building. For committees 241
with a district-level scope, the teacher members shall be 242
elected by majority vote of the classroom teachers of the 243
district, and the principal member shall be elected by a 244
majority vote of the principals of the district, unless there 245
are two or fewer principals employed by the district, in which 246
case the one or two principals employed shall serve on the 247
committee. If a committee has a particular grade or age level 248
scope, the teacher members shall be licensed to teach such grade 249
or age levels, and shall be elected by majority vote of the 250
classroom teachers holding such a license and the principal 251
shall be elected by all principals serving in buildings where 252
any such teachers serve. The district superintendent shall 253
appoint a replacement to fill any vacancy that occurs on a 254

professional development committee, except in the case of 255
vacancies among the elected classroom teacher members, which 256
shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the 257
committee so selected. 258

Terms of office on professional development committees 259
shall be prescribed by the district board establishing the 260
committees. The conduct of elections for members of professional 261
development committees shall be prescribed by the district board 262
establishing the committees. A professional development 263
committee may include additional members, except that the 264
majority of members on each such committee shall be classroom 265
teachers employed by the district. Any member appointed to fill 266
a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for 267
which a predecessor was appointed shall hold office as a member 268
for the remainder of that term. 269

The initial meeting of any professional development 270
committee, upon election and appointment of all committee 271
members, shall be called by a member designated by the district 272
superintendent. At this initial meeting, the committee shall 273
select a chairperson and such other officers the committee deems 274
necessary, and shall adopt rules for the conduct of its 275
meetings. Thereafter, the committee shall meet at the call of 276
the chairperson or upon the filing of a petition with the 277
district superintendent signed by a majority of the committee 278
members calling for the committee to meet. 279

(3) In the case of a school district in which an exclusive 280
representative has been established pursuant to Chapter 4117. of 281
the Revised Code, professional development committees shall be 282
established in accordance with any collective bargaining 283
agreement in effect in the district that includes provisions for 284

such committees. 285

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 286
different method for the selection of teacher members of the 287
committees, the exclusive representative of the district's 288
teachers shall select the teacher members. 289

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 290
different structure for the committees, the board of education 291
of the school district shall establish the structure, including 292
the number of committees and the number of teacher and 293
administrative members on each committee; the specific 294
administrative members to be part of each committee; whether the 295
scope of the committees will be district levels, building 296
levels, or by type of grade or age levels for which educator 297
licenses are designated; the lengths of terms for members; the 298
manner of filling vacancies on the committees; and the frequency 299
and time and place of meetings. However, in all cases, except as 300
provided in division (F) (4) of this section, there shall be a 301
majority of teacher members of any professional development 302
committee, there shall be at least five total members of any 303
professional development committee, and the exclusive 304
representative shall designate replacement members in the case 305
of vacancies among teacher members, unless the collective 306
bargaining agreement specifies a different method of selecting 307
such replacements. 308

(4) Whenever an administrator's coursework plan is being 309
discussed or voted upon, the local professional development 310
committee shall, at the request of one of its administrative 311
members, cause a majority of the committee to consist of 312
administrative members by reducing the number of teacher members 313
voting on the plan. 314

(5) A professional development committee may grant an 315
individual seeking to renew a license under this section credit 316
towards continuing education requirements for completion of a 317
statutorily required professional development training. Such an 318
individual shall receive continuing education credit for one 319
completed professional development course per licensure renewal 320
period. To qualify for continuing education credit under this 321
division, a professional development course shall be completed 322
during the time in which an individual holds a valid license 323
under this section. 324

(G) (1) The state board of education, educational service 325
centers, county boards of developmental disabilities, college 326
and university departments of education, head start programs, 327
and the Ohio education computer network may establish local 328
professional development committees to determine whether the 329
coursework proposed by their employees who are licensed or 330
certificated under this section or section 3319.222 of the 331
Revised Code, or under the former version of either section as 332
it existed prior to October 16, 2009, meet the requirements of 333
the rules adopted under this section. They may establish local 334
professional development committees on their own or in 335
collaboration with a school district or other agency having 336
authority to establish them. 337

Local professional development committees established by 338
county boards of developmental disabilities shall be structured 339
in a manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 340
districts in divisions (F) (2) and (3) of this section, as shall 341
the committees established by any other entity specified in 342
division (G) (1) of this section that provides educational 343
services by employing or contracting for services of classroom 344
teachers licensed or certificated under this section or section 345

3319.222 of the Revised Code, or under the former version of 346
either section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009. All 347
other entities specified in division (G)(1) of this section 348
shall structure their committees in accordance with guidelines 349
which shall be issued by the state board. 350

(2) Educational service centers may establish local 351
professional development committees to serve educators who are 352
not employed in schools in this state, including pupil services 353
personnel who are licensed under this section. Local 354
professional development committees shall be structured in a 355
manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 356
districts in divisions (F)(2) and (3) of this section. 357

These committees may agree to review the coursework, 358
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities 359
related to classroom teaching or the area of licensure that is 360
proposed by an individual who satisfies both of the following 361
conditions: 362

(a) The individual is licensed or certificated under this 363
section or under the former version of this section as it 364
existed prior to October 16, 2009. 365

(b) The individual is not currently employed as an 366
educator or is not currently employed by an entity that operates 367
a local professional development committee under this section. 368

Any committee that agrees to work with such an individual 369
shall work to determine whether the proposed coursework, 370
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities meet 371
the requirements of the rules adopted by the state board under 372
this section. 373

(3) Any public agency that is not specified in division 374

(G) (1) or (2) of this section but provides educational services 375
and employs or contracts for services of classroom teachers 376
licensed or certificated under this section or section 3319.222 377
of the Revised Code, or under the former version of either 378
section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, may establish a 379
local professional development committee, subject to the 380
approval of the state board. The committee shall be structured 381
in accordance with guidelines issued by the state board. 382

(H) The state board, in accordance with Chapter 119. of 383
the Revised Code, shall adopt rules pursuant to division (A) (3) 384
of this section that do both of the following: 385

(1) Exempt consistently high-performing teachers and 386
school counselors from the requirement to complete any 387
additional coursework for the renewal of an educator license 388
issued under this section or section 3319.26 of the Revised 389
Code. The rules also shall specify that such teachers and school 390
counselors are exempt from any requirements prescribed by 391
professional development committees established under divisions 392
(F) and (G) of this section. 393

(2) For purposes of division (H) (1) of this section, the 394
term "consistently high-performing teacher or school counselor" 395
means any teacher or school counselor who meets both of the 396
following: 397

(a) For at least four of the past five years, the teacher 398
or school counselor has received the highest level of 399
performance rating under section 3319.112 or 3319.113 of the 400
Revised Code, as applicable, or an equivalent performance rating 401
under section 3311.80 of the Revised Code; 402

(b) The teacher or school counselor meets at least one, or 403

any combination, of the following for at least three of the five 404
years of the current licensure cycle: 405

(i) Holds a valid senior or lead professional educator 406
license; 407

(ii) Holds a locally recognized educational leadership 408
role that enhances educational practices by providing 409
professional learning experience at district, regional, state, 410
or higher educational level; 411

(iii) Serves in a leadership role for a national or state 412
professional academic education organization; 413

(iv) Serves on a state-level committee supporting 414
education; 415

(v) Receives a state or national educational recognition 416
or award. 417

(I) The state board shall issue a resident educator 418
license, professional educator license, senior professional 419
educator license, lead professional educator license, or any 420
other educator license in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the 421
Revised Code to an applicant if either of the following applies: 422

(1) The applicant holds a license in another state. 423

(2) The applicant has satisfactory work experience, a 424
government certification, or a private certification as 425
described in that chapter as a resident educator, professional 426
educator, senior professional educator, lead professional 427
educator, or any other type of educator in a state that does not 428
issue one or more of those licenses. 429

Section 2. That existing sections 3319.079 and 3319.22 of 430
the Revised Code are hereby repealed. 431