

As Introduced

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Regular Session

2023-2024

S. B. No. 219

Senator Ingram

Cosponsors: Senators Smith, Sykes, DeMora, Hicks-Hudson, Craig



A BILL

To amend section 3319.22 of the Revised Code 1
regarding educator license grade bands. 2

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

Section 1. That section 3319.22 of the Revised Code be 3
amended to read as follows: 4

Sec. 3319.22. (A) (1) The state board of education shall 5
issue the following educator licenses: 6

(a) A resident educator license, which shall be valid for 7
two years and shall be renewable for reasons specified by rules 8
adopted by the state board pursuant to division (A) (3) of this 9
section. The state board, on a case-by-case basis, may extend 10
the license's duration as necessary to enable the license holder 11
to complete the Ohio teacher residency program established under 12
section 3319.223 of the Revised Code; 13

(b) A professional educator license, which shall be valid 14
for five years and shall be renewable; 15

(c) A senior professional educator license, which shall be 16
valid for five years and shall be renewable; 17

(d) A lead professional educator license, which shall be 18
valid for five years and shall be renewable. 19

~~Licenses~~ Subject to division (A) (4) of this section, 20
~~licenses~~ issued under division (A) (1) of this section on and 21
~~after the effective date of this amendment~~ the effective date of 22
~~this amendment~~, shall specify whether the educator is licensed 23
to teach grades pre-kindergarten through ~~eight or five~~, grades 24
~~six-four through nine~~, or grades seven through twelve. The 25
changes to the grade band specifications under this section 26
shall not apply to a person who holds a license under division 27
(A) (1) of this section prior to ~~the effective date of this~~ 28
~~amendment~~ the effective date of this amendment. Further, the 29
changes to the grade band specifications under this section 30
shall not apply to any license issued to teach in the area of 31
computer information science, bilingual education, dance, drama 32
or theater, world language, health, library or media, music, 33
physical education, teaching English to speakers of other 34
languages, career-technical education, or visual arts or to any 35
license issued to an intervention specialist, including a gifted 36
intervention specialist, or to any other license that does not 37
align to the grade band specifications. 38

(2) (a) Except as provided in division (A) (2) (b) of this 39
section, the state board may issue any additional educator 40
licenses of categories, types, and levels the board elects to 41
provide. 42

(b) Not later than December 31, 2024, the state board 43
shall cease licensing school psychologists. The state board 44
shall coordinate with the state board of psychology to 45
transition to licensure under Chapter 4732. of the Revised Code 46
any school psychologists licensed under rules adopted in 47

accordance with sections 3301.07 and 3319.22 of the Revised Code. 48
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(3) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 50
the state board shall adopt rules establishing the standards and 51
requirements for obtaining each educator license issued under 52
this section. The rules shall also include the reasons for which 53
a resident educator license may be renewed under division (A) (1) 54
(a) of this section. 55

(4) Notwithstanding the requirement that each license 56
issued under division (A) (1) of this section specify the grade 57
band in which the educator is licensed to teach, a school 58
district or community school may employ an educator to teach 59
outside of the designated grade band by not more than two grade 60
levels and for not more than two school years at a time. The 61
school district superintendent or governing authority of the 62
community school may renew that teacher's eligibility to teach 63
in accordance with this division on a biennial basis. 64

(B) Except as provided in division (I) of this section, 65
the rules adopted under this section shall require at least the 66
following standards and qualifications for the educator licenses 67
described in division (A) (1) of this section: 68

(1) An applicant for a resident educator license shall 69
hold at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited teacher 70
preparation program or be a participant in the teach for America 71
program and meet the qualifications required under section 72
3319.227 of the Revised Code. 73

(2) An applicant for a professional educator license 74
shall: 75

(a) Hold at least a bachelor's degree from an institution 76

of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization;	77 78
(b) Have successfully completed the Ohio teacher residency program established under section 3319.223 of the Revised Code, if the applicant's current or most recently issued license is a resident educator license issued under this section or an alternative resident educator license issued under section 3319.26 of the Revised Code.	79 80 81 82 83 84
(3) An applicant for a senior professional educator license shall:	85 86
(a) Hold at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization;	87 88 89
(b) Have previously held a professional educator license issued under this section or section 3319.222 or under former section 3319.22 of the Revised Code;	90 91 92
(c) Meet the criteria for the accomplished or distinguished level of performance, as described in the standards for teachers adopted by the state board under section 3319.61 of the Revised Code.	93 94 95 96
(4) An applicant for a lead professional educator license shall:	97 98
(a) Hold at least a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization;	99 100 101
(b) Have previously held a professional educator license or a senior professional educator license issued under this section or a professional educator license issued under section	102 103 104

3319.222 or former section 3319.22 of the Revised Code;	105
(c) Meet the criteria for the distinguished level of performance, as described in the standards for teachers adopted by the state board under section 3319.61 of the Revised Code;	106 107 108
(d) Either hold a valid certificate issued by the national board for professional teaching standards or meet the criteria for a master teacher or other criteria for a lead teacher adopted by the educator standards board under division (F) (4) or (5) of section 3319.61 of the Revised Code.	109 110 111 112 113
(C) The state board shall align the standards and qualifications for obtaining a principal license with the standards for principals adopted by the state board under section 3319.61 of the Revised Code.	114 115 116 117
(D) If the state board requires any examinations for educator licensure, the state board shall provide the results of such examinations received by the state board to the chancellor of higher education, in the manner and to the extent permitted by state and federal law.	118 119 120 121 122
(E) Any rules the state board of education adopts, amends, or rescinds for educator licenses under this section or any other law shall be adopted, amended, or rescinded under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code except as follows:	123 124 125 126
(1) Notwithstanding division (E) of section 119.03 and division (A) (1) of section 119.04 of the Revised Code, in the case of the adoption of any rule or the amendment or rescission of any rule that necessitates institutions' offering preparation programs for educators and other school personnel that are approved by the chancellor of higher education under section 3333.048 of the Revised Code to revise the curriculum of those	127 128 129 130 131 132 133

programs, the effective date shall not be as prescribed in 134
division (E) of section 119.03 and division (A) (1) of section 135
119.04 of the Revised Code. Instead, the effective date of such 136
rules, or the amendment or rescission of such rules, shall be 137
the date prescribed by section 3333.048 of the Revised Code. 138

(2) Notwithstanding the authority to adopt, amend, or 139
rescind emergency rules in division (G) of section 119.03 of the 140
Revised Code, this authority shall not apply to the state board 141
of education with regard to rules for educator licenses. 142

(F) (1) The rules adopted under this section establishing 143
standards requiring additional coursework for the renewal of any 144
educator license shall require a school district and a chartered 145
nonpublic school to establish local professional development 146
committees. In a nonpublic school, the chief administrative 147
officer shall establish the committees in any manner acceptable 148
to such officer. The committees established under this division 149
shall determine whether coursework that a district or chartered 150
nonpublic school teacher proposes to complete meets the 151
requirement of the rules. The state board shall provide 152
technical assistance and support to committees as the committees 153
incorporate the professional development standards adopted 154
pursuant to section 3319.61 of the Revised Code into their 155
review of coursework that is appropriate for license renewal. 156
The rules shall establish a procedure by which a teacher may 157
appeal the decision of a local professional development 158
committee. 159

(2) In any school district in which there is no exclusive 160
representative established under Chapter 4117. of the Revised 161
Code, the professional development committees shall be 162
established as described in division (F) (2) of this section. 163

Not later than the effective date of the rules adopted 164
under this section, the board of education of each school 165
district shall establish the structure for one or more local 166
professional development committees to be operated by such 167
school district. The committee structure so established by a 168
district board shall remain in effect unless within thirty days 169
prior to an anniversary of the date upon which the current 170
committee structure was established, the board provides notice 171
to all affected district employees that the committee structure 172
is to be modified. Professional development committees may have 173
a district-level or building-level scope of operations, and may 174
be established with regard to particular grade or age levels for 175
which an educator license is designated. 176

Each professional development committee shall consist of 177
at least three classroom teachers employed by the district, one 178
principal employed by the district, and one other employee of 179
the district appointed by the district superintendent. For 180
committees with a building-level scope, the teacher and 181
principal members shall be assigned to that building, and the 182
teacher members shall be elected by majority vote of the 183
classroom teachers assigned to that building. For committees 184
with a district-level scope, the teacher members shall be 185
elected by majority vote of the classroom teachers of the 186
district, and the principal member shall be elected by a 187
majority vote of the principals of the district, unless there 188
are two or fewer principals employed by the district, in which 189
case the one or two principals employed shall serve on the 190
committee. If a committee has a particular grade or age level 191
scope, the teacher members shall be licensed to teach such grade 192
or age levels, and shall be elected by majority vote of the 193
classroom teachers holding such a license and the principal 194

shall be elected by all principals serving in buildings where 195
any such teachers serve. The district superintendent shall 196
appoint a replacement to fill any vacancy that occurs on a 197
professional development committee, except in the case of 198
vacancies among the elected classroom teacher members, which 199
shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the 200
committee so selected. 201

Terms of office on professional development committees 202
shall be prescribed by the district board establishing the 203
committees. The conduct of elections for members of professional 204
development committees shall be prescribed by the district board 205
establishing the committees. A professional development 206
committee may include additional members, except that the 207
majority of members on each such committee shall be classroom 208
teachers employed by the district. Any member appointed to fill 209
a vacancy occurring prior to the expiration date of the term for 210
which a predecessor was appointed shall hold office as a member 211
for the remainder of that term. 212

The initial meeting of any professional development 213
committee, upon election and appointment of all committee 214
members, shall be called by a member designated by the district 215
superintendent. At this initial meeting, the committee shall 216
select a chairperson and such other officers the committee deems 217
necessary, and shall adopt rules for the conduct of its 218
meetings. Thereafter, the committee shall meet at the call of 219
the chairperson or upon the filing of a petition with the 220
district superintendent signed by a majority of the committee 221
members calling for the committee to meet. 222

(3) In the case of a school district in which an exclusive 223
representative has been established pursuant to Chapter 4117. of 224

the Revised Code, professional development committees shall be 225
established in accordance with any collective bargaining 226
agreement in effect in the district that includes provisions for 227
such committees. 228

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 229
different method for the selection of teacher members of the 230
committees, the exclusive representative of the district's 231
teachers shall select the teacher members. 232

If the collective bargaining agreement does not specify a 233
different structure for the committees, the board of education 234
of the school district shall establish the structure, including 235
the number of committees and the number of teacher and 236
administrative members on each committee; the specific 237
administrative members to be part of each committee; whether the 238
scope of the committees will be district levels, building 239
levels, or by type of grade or age levels for which educator 240
licenses are designated; the lengths of terms for members; the 241
manner of filling vacancies on the committees; and the frequency 242
and time and place of meetings. However, in all cases, except as 243
provided in division (F) (4) of this section, there shall be a 244
majority of teacher members of any professional development 245
committee, there shall be at least five total members of any 246
professional development committee, and the exclusive 247
representative shall designate replacement members in the case 248
of vacancies among teacher members, unless the collective 249
bargaining agreement specifies a different method of selecting 250
such replacements. 251

(4) Whenever an administrator's coursework plan is being 252
discussed or voted upon, the local professional development 253
committee shall, at the request of one of its administrative 254

members, cause a majority of the committee to consist of 255
administrative members by reducing the number of teacher members 256
voting on the plan. 257

(G) (1) The department of education and workforce, 258
educational service centers, county boards of developmental 259
disabilities, college and university departments of education, 260
head start programs, and the Ohio education computer network may 261
establish local professional development committees to determine 262
whether the coursework proposed by their employees who are 263
licensed or certificated under this section or section 3319.222 264
of the Revised Code, or under the former version of either 265
section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, meet the 266
requirements of the rules adopted under this section. They may 267
establish local professional development committees on their own 268
or in collaboration with a school district or other agency 269
having authority to establish them. 270

Local professional development committees established by 271
county boards of developmental disabilities shall be structured 272
in a manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 273
districts in divisions (F) (2) and (3) of this section, as shall 274
the committees established by any other entity specified in 275
division (G) (1) of this section that provides educational 276
services by employing or contracting for services of classroom 277
teachers licensed or certificated under this section or section 278
3319.222 of the Revised Code, or under the former version of 279
either section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009. All 280
other entities specified in division (G) (1) of this section 281
shall structure their committees in accordance with guidelines 282
which shall be issued by the department. 283

(2) Educational service centers may establish local 284

professional development committees to serve educators who are 285
not employed in schools in this state, including pupil services 286
personnel who are licensed under this section. Local 287
professional development committees shall be structured in a 288
manner comparable to the structures prescribed for school 289
districts in divisions (F) (2) and (3) of this section. 290

These committees may agree to review the coursework, 291
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities 292
related to classroom teaching or the area of licensure that is 293
proposed by an individual who satisfies both of the following 294
conditions: 295

(a) The individual is licensed or certificated under this 296
section or under the former version of this section as it 297
existed prior to October 16, 2009. 298

(b) The individual is not currently employed as an 299
educator or is not currently employed by an entity that operates 300
a local professional development committee under this section. 301

Any committee that agrees to work with such an individual 302
shall work to determine whether the proposed coursework, 303
continuing education units, or other equivalent activities meet 304
the requirements of the rules adopted by the state board under 305
this section. 306

(3) Any public agency that is not specified in division 307
(G) (1) or (2) of this section but provides educational services 308
and employs or contracts for services of classroom teachers 309
licensed or certificated under this section or section 3319.222 310
of the Revised Code, or under the former version of either 311
section as it existed prior to October 16, 2009, may establish a 312
local professional development committee, subject to the 313

approval of the department of education and workforce. The 314
committee shall be structured in accordance with guidelines 315
issued by the department. 316

(H) Not later than July 1, 2016, the state board, in 317
accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, shall adopt 318
rules pursuant to division (A) (3) of this section that do both 319
of the following: 320

(1) Exempt consistently high-performing teachers from the 321
requirement to complete any additional coursework for the 322
renewal of an educator license issued under this section or 323
section 3319.26 of the Revised Code. The rules also shall 324
specify that such teachers are exempt from any requirements 325
prescribed by professional development committees established 326
under divisions (F) and (G) of this section. 327

(2) For purposes of division (H) (1) of this section, the 328
state board shall define the term "consistently high-performing 329
teacher." 330

(I) The state board shall issue a resident educator 331
license, professional educator license, senior professional 332
educator license, lead professional educator license, or any 333
other educator license in accordance with Chapter 4796. of the 334
Revised Code to an applicant if either of the following applies: 335

(1) The applicant holds a license in another state. 336

(2) The applicant has satisfactory work experience, a 337
government certification, or a private certification as 338
described in that chapter as a resident educator, professional 339
educator, senior professional educator, lead professional 340
educator, or any other type of educator in a state that does not 341
issue one or more of those licenses. 342

Section 2. That existing section 3319.22 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed. 343
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