Alternative Pathways to Licensure Frequently Asked Questions

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When can I apply?

- At this time there are no approved programs under the new law. Candidates will need to complete a Board of Teaching (BOT) approved alternative program and developing alternative programs will take time. The BOT must first develop criteria and then approve the programs before they become operational. As programs are approved they will be posted to Minnesota Department of Education website.

What are the program requirements of this law and what will candidates need to evidence?

-Bachelor's Degree with a 3.0 GPA
-Basic Skills in math, reading, and writing
-Content based Pedagogy exams
-Content based performance assessments
-Content/Subject specific rigorous exam
-Minimum of 200 instructional hours
-Student Teaching
-Mentoring, Induction, and evaluation
-Candidates will be members of the local collective bargaining unit and must abide by all district requirements of new teachers and evaluation
- After completing the program, candidates must be recommended by a school site team of teachers, principal, and higher education faculty in order to obtain a standard license.
-The BOT must evaluate programs and may revoke the approval of programs that are proven ineffective.

I am enrolled in a current licensing program (Minnesota college/university); can I quit and pursue the alternative pathways?

- At this time there are no programs approved under the new law. We suggest that candidates remain in their current programs and wait to consider alternative pathways as they become available.

Can I complete an alternative pathway for an endorsement field?

- At this time there are no programs approved under the new law.

How long will it take for programs to be approved?

- It will take time for the BOT to establish criteria and to change the current structures in order to allow nonprofit organizations and other providers to be approved. Only after the criteria and structures are in place, can programs be created and submitted to the BOT for review and possible approval.

I completed a similar alternative program out-of-state, will that qualify?

- Alternative programs completed outside of Minnesota will be reviewed and compared to alternative programs developed under the new law. Until programs are developed and approved alternative program completers from outside of Minnesota will be reviewed according to past practice. Individuals who have been licensed in another state via an alternative program should apply for a Minnesota license via the online application process.

My out-of-state alternative program did not lead to licensure in Minnesota when I previously applied, will your department now re-review my application materials?

-No. Licensure reviews are completed and evaluated in accordance with all licensure rules in place at the time of application. Approval of new alternative programs for Minnesota licensure will not impact past licensure decisions.