



## **BASIC SKILLS EXAM LEGISLATION**

Governor Mark Dayton recently signed legislation revising a law passed in February related to the Basic Skills teacher exam requirement for Minnesota teacher licensure.

The change allows Minnesota teachers until the end of the 2012-13 school year to pass the Minnesota Teacher Licensure Examination (MTLE) Basic Skills exam. **Only** teachers who were in a teaching position in Minnesota this year (2011-12) on a one-year license who have NOT passed one or more of the subtests on the Basic Skills exam are affected by this law.

The exact language is at the end of this message.

The amendment to the law does not specify that the one-year license issued to teach in the 2011-12 school year was the teacher's first or only one-year license issued. Therefore, it does not matter if the teacher has had more than one of these licenses issued unless they are on their third and final one-year license; in that case, an appeal to the Board of Teaching is required to possibly extend the license for one more year.

### **Out-of-State Teachers**

The core of the law passed in February is not affected by this change: new teachers coming from other states must now **pass** the MTLE Basic Skills exam before a license can be issued.

This also includes out-of-state teachers who might already have a one-year license in Minnesota but were not teaching in a Minnesota school in 2011-12. The new law voids the renewal condition that previously allowed these teachers to renew their license without passing the exam.

In certain cases, out-of-state teachers might have the equivalent Praxis version of the Basic Skills exam count, but the Board of Teaching has placed limits on the transferability of that version (that information is outlined in the testing information document).

Your staffing decisions for the 2012-13 school year may be affected, since out-of-state teachers may not be aware of the law and it does add time to the licensing process. The Minnesota Department of Education and the Board of Teaching have no authority to waive the Basic Skills exam requirement.

## **New Teachers**

New graduates of Minnesota institutions must pass the Basic Skills exam before a teaching license can be issued. Those who do not pass the exam will no longer have the three-year period to pass the exam.

## **For More Information**

[Information about the exam system and exam registration is available on the Educator Licensing website.](#) From the MDE home page (<http://education.state.mn.us/mde/index.html>), select Educator Excellence > Licensing, and open the document titled *Teacher Testing Requirements and Testing Chart March 2012*.

[You may also visit the Pearson Minnesota Teacher Licensing \(MTLE\) website to register.](#) ([http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML\\_FRAG/GENRB\\_PreparationMaterials.html](http://www.mtle.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_PreparationMaterials.html))

We are trying to make the implementation of the laws as seamless as possible and welcome any questions. Contact us at: [mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us](mailto:mde.educator-licensing@state.mn.us).

Karen Balmer  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Board of Teaching

Richard Wassen  
Director  
Educator Licensing

## **Full Text of Legislation**

(See Article 2)

Sec. 20. ONE-YEAR LICENSES.

Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 122A.18, subdivision 2, as amended by Laws 2012, chapter 122, section 2, a person who has:

- (1) obtained a one-year license to teach; and
- (2) taught during the 2011-2012 school year;

may be approved by the Board of Teaching to continue to teach through the end of the 2012-2013 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective retroactively from February 22, 2012.

[View Chapter 239 of the 2012 session laws on the Office of the Revisor of Statutes website.](#)