



MINNESOTA BOARD OF TEACHING

TO: Deans/Chairs, Minnesota Colleges and Universities
FROM: Karen Balmer
DATE: January 24, 2012
RE: Kindergarten endorsement licensure option

On January 13, 2012, the Minnesota Board of Teaching approved the resolution included on page 2 of this memo. As a result of the resolution, the Educator Licensing division at MDE will have the authority to issue a kindergarten license (as an endorsement to a 1-6 elementary license) to applicants who are recommended by an approved Minnesota college or university. To apply for this approval, the college or university must submit a written request to the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Teaching to waive MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3, in order to offer a methods course for kindergarten licensure. Courses shall be provided to candidates who hold a 1-6 license and seek to add kindergarten.

In accordance with the Board of Teaching Resolution stated above, the Educator Licensing division at MDE will have the authority to issue a kindergarten license (as an endorsement to a 1-6 elementary license) to applicants who are recommended by an approved Minnesota College/University when:

1. The college/university submits a written request to the Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Teaching to waive MN Rule 8710.0550, subpart 3, in order to offer a methods course for kindergarten licensure. Courses are provided to candidates who hold a 1-6 license and seek to add kindergarten.
The waiver request must include:
 - Duration of request, including the duration of the course and time period when candidates will be recommended for licensure.
 - The specific dates that the course/program will be offered.
 - Include the specific title of the course/course number and the instructor's resume evidencing his/her academic preparation to teach the content and teaching experience in kindergarten.
 - A supervised and evaluated practicum in kindergarten is expected to be part of the preparation program.
2. Teachers who complete an approved kindergarten methods course after June 30, 2012 must submit the standard licensure endorsement application including the college recommendation and related processing fees.
3. This Board resolution will be in effect until June 30, 2014.

Teachers who complete an approved kindergarten methods course must submit the standard licensure endorsement application including the college recommendation and related processing fees.

This Board resolution will be in effect until June 30, 2014.

Requests should be sent to:
Karen Balmer, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Teaching
1500 Highway 36 West
Roseville, MN 55113



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BOARD OF TEACHING RESOLUTION *Regarding the extension of MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3*

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3 provides:

Subp. 3. Kindergarten. Until June 30, 2005, an applicant holding a current entrance or professional elementary teaching license first granted by the Board of Teaching prior to September 1, 2001, shall be granted kindergarten licensure upon submitting evidence of having completed requirements for methods of kindergarten education in a state-approved teacher preparation program at a college or university that is accredited by the regional association for the accreditation of colleges and secondary schools and a recommendation for kindergarten licensure from that college or university.

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8710.0550, Subpart 3 provides that the provision to add a kindergarten license by licensees licensed prior to 2001 ended on June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Teaching has the authority to waive its rules pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 14.055; and

WHEREAS, in February of 2010 the deadline of this rule was extended to June 30, 2012 by Board resolution; and

WHEREAS, there is a further need to extend the timeline which would allow teachers who hold a 1-6 elementary to be granted a kindergarten license upon submitting evidence of having completed requirements for methods of kindergarten education in a state-approved teacher preparation program; and

THEREFORE, the Board of Teaching authorizes its Executive Director to waive the time provisions of MN Rule 8710.0550, subpart 3. This resolution will be in effect until June 30, 2014.

- Adopted by the Board of Teaching on January 13, 2012