

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL 417

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CREATING A VOCATIONAL EDUCATION
LICENSURE TRACK FOR TEACHERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
Chapter 153, Section 38, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-7. LEVEL ONE LICENSURE.--

A. A level one license is a provisional five-year
license for beginning teachers that requires as a condition of
licensure that the licensee undergo a formal mentorship program
for at least one full school year and an annual intensive
performance evaluation by a school administrator for at least
three full school years before applying for a level two
license.

B. Each school district, in accordance with

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underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 department rules, shall provide for the mentorship and
2 evaluation of level one teachers. At the end of each year and
3 at the end of the license period, the level one teacher shall
4 be evaluated for competency. If the teacher fails to
5 demonstrate satisfactory progress and competence annually, the
6 teacher may be terminated as provided in Section 22-10A-24 NMSA
7 1978. If the teacher has not demonstrated satisfactory
8 progress and competence by the end of the five-year period, the
9 teacher shall not be granted a level two license.

10 C. Except in exigent circumstances defined by
11 department rule, a level one license shall not be extended
12 beyond the initial period.

13 D. The department shall issue a standard level one
14 license to an applicant who is at least eighteen years of age
15 who:

16 (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an
17 accredited educational institution;

18 (2) has successfully completed a department-
19 approved teacher preparation program from a nationally
20 accredited or state-approved educational institution;

21 (3) has passed the New Mexico teacher
22 assessments examination, including for elementary licensure
23 beginning January 1, 2013, a rigorous assessment of the
24 candidate's knowledge of the science of teaching reading; and

25 (4) meets other qualifications for level one

1 licensure, including clearance of the required background
2 check.

3 E. The department shall issue a standard level one
4 vocational license to an applicant who meets the requirements
5 of Subsection D of this section or to an applicant who is at
6 least twenty-three years of age and who:

7 (1) has five or more years of professional
8 experience in the vocational field in which the applicant will
9 teach; and

10 (2) meets other qualifications for level one
11 licensure, including clearance of a background check pursuant
12 to Section 22-10A-5 NMSA 1978.

13 [~~E.~~] F. The department shall issue an alternative
14 level one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of
15 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

16 [~~F.~~] G. The department shall establish competencies
17 and qualifications for specific grade levels, types and subject
18 areas of level one licensure, including early childhood,
19 elementary, middle school, secondary, special and vocational
20 education.

21 [~~G.~~] H. The minimum salary for a level one teacher,
22 except for a teacher licensed pursuant to Subsection E of this
23 section, is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a standard
24 nine and one-half month contract; provided that teachers in an
25 extended learning time program or K-5 plus program shall

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1 receive additional salary at the same rate as their base salary
2 for that teaching time.

3 I. After the issuance of a license, a license
4 holder shall not be required to meet changed requirements to
5 maintain the license until such time as the license expires and
6 the license holder seeks renewal of the license."

7 SECTION 2. Section 22-10A-10 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
8 Chapter 153, Section 41, as amended) is amended to read:

9 "22-10A-10. LEVEL TWO LICENSURE.--

10 A. A level two license is a nine-year license
11 granted to a teacher who meets the qualifications for that
12 level and who annually demonstrates essential competency to
13 teach. If a level two teacher does not demonstrate essential
14 competency in a given school year, the school district shall
15 provide the teacher with additional professional development
16 and peer intervention during the following school year. If by
17 the end of that school year the teacher fails to demonstrate
18 essential competency, a school district may choose not to
19 contract with the teacher to teach in the classroom.

20 B. The department shall issue a level two license
21 to an applicant who has successfully taught at least three, but
22 no more than five, years as a level one teacher or an
23 alternative level one teacher, or a combination of the two, or
24 is granted reciprocity as provided by department rules. An
25 applicant for a level two license shall:

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1 (1) demonstrate essential competency required
 2 by the department as verified by the local superintendent
 3 through the highly objective uniform statewide standard of
 4 evaluation; and

5 (2) meet other qualifications as required by
 6 the department.

7 C. The department shall provide for qualifications
 8 for specific grade levels, types and subject areas of level two
 9 licensure, including early childhood, elementary, middle,
 10 secondary, special and vocational education.

11 D. The minimum salary for a level two teacher,
 12 except for those teachers with a vocational education license,
 13 is sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for a standard nine and
 14 one-half month contract; provided that teachers in an extended
 15 learning time program or K-5 plus program shall receive
 16 additional salary at the same rate as their base salary for
 17 that teaching time."

18 SECTION 3. Section 22-10A-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
 19 Chapter 153, Section 42, as amended) is amended to read:

20 "22-10A-11. LEVEL THREE LICENSURE--TRACKS FOR TEACHERS.--

21 A. A level three-A license is a nine-year license
 22 granted to a teacher who meets the qualifications for that
 23 level and who annually demonstrates instructional leader
 24 competencies. If a level three-A teacher does not demonstrate
 25 essential competency in a given school year, the school

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1 district shall provide the teacher with additional professional
2 development and peer intervention during the following school
3 year. If by the end of that school year the teacher fails to
4 demonstrate essential competency, a school district may choose
5 not to contract with the teacher to teach in the classroom.

6 B. The department shall grant a level three-A
7 license to an applicant who has been a level two teacher for at
8 least three years and holds a post-baccalaureate degree or
9 national board for professional teaching standards
10 certification; demonstrates instructional leader competence as
11 required by the department and verified by the local
12 superintendent through the highly objective uniform statewide
13 standard of evaluation; and meets other qualifications for the
14 license.

15 C. The department shall grant a level three-A
16 license to an applicant seeking a level three-A vocational
17 education license who does not meet the requirements of
18 Subsection B of this section, but who otherwise is eligible for
19 a level three-A license, provided that the applicant:

20 (1) has been a level two teacher for at least
21 three years;

22 (2) provides documentation from an accredited
23 higher education institution of the applicant's eligibility to
24 teach dual-credit courses at the post-secondary level in the
25 field in which the applicant is teaching; or

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1 (3) completes a department-approved career-
 2 technical education training certificate course of study that
 3 is a minimum of sixteen hours at an accredited higher education
 4 institution.

5 ~~[G.]~~ D. The minimum salary for a level three-A
 6 teacher, except teachers licensed pursuant to Subsection C of
 7 this section, is seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) for a
 8 standard nine and one-half month contract; provided that
 9 teachers in an extended learning time program or K-5 plus
 10 program shall receive additional salary at the same rate as
 11 their base salary for that teaching time.

12 ~~[D.]~~ E. The minimum salary for a counselor who
 13 holds a level three or three-A license as provided in the
 14 School Personnel Act and rules promulgated by the department
 15 shall be the same as provided for level three-A teachers
 16 pursuant to Subsection ~~[G]~~ D of this section."

17 **SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the
 18 provisions of this act is July 1, 2023.

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