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

1 two license.

2 C. Except in exigent circumstances defined by  
3 department rule, a level one license shall not be extended  
4 beyond the initial period.

5 D. The department shall issue a standard level one  
6 license to an applicant who is at least eighteen years of age  
7 who:

8 (1) holds a baccalaureate degree from an  
9 accredited educational institution;

10 (2) has successfully completed a  
11 department-approved teacher preparation program from a  
12 nationally accredited or state-approved educational  
13 institution;

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

18 (4) meets other qualifications for level one  
19 licensure, including clearance of the required background  
20 check.

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

25 (1) has five or more years of professional

1 experience in the vocational field in which the applicant  
2 will teach; and

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

6 F. The department shall issue an alternative level  
7 one license to an applicant who meets the requirements of  
8 Section 22-10A-8 NMSA 1978.

9 G. The department shall establish competencies and  
10 qualifications for specific grade levels, types and subject  
11 areas of level one licensure, including early childhood,  
12 elementary, middle school, secondary, special and vocational  
13 education.

14 H. The minimum salary for a level one teacher,  
15 except for a teacher licensed pursuant to Subsection E of  
16 this section, is fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for a  
17 standard nine and one-half month contract; provided that  
18 teachers in an extended learning time program or K-5 plus  
19 program shall receive additional salary at the same rate as  
20 their base salary for that teaching time.

21 I. After the issuance of a license, a license  
22 holder shall not be required to meet changed requirements to  
23 maintain the license until such time as the license expires  
24 and the license holder seeks renewal of the license."

25 SECTION 2. Section 22-10A-10 NMSA 1978 (being

1 Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Section 41, as amended) is amended to  
2 read:

3 "22-10A-10. LEVEL TWO LICENSURE.--

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

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

21 (1) demonstrate essential competency  
22 required by the department as verified by the local  
23 superintendent through the highly objective uniform statewide  
24 standard of evaluation; and

25 (2) meet other qualifications as required by

1 the department.

2 C. The department shall provide for qualifications  
3 for specific grade levels, types and subject areas of level  
4 two licensure, including early childhood, elementary, middle,  
5 secondary, special and vocational education.

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

13 SECTION 3. Section 22-10A-11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws  
14 2003, Chapter 153, Section 42, as amended) is amended to  
15 read:

16 "22-10A-11. LEVEL THREE LICENSURE--TRACKS FOR  
17 TEACHERS.--

18 A. A level three-A license is a nine-year license  
19 granted to a teacher who meets the qualifications for that  
20 level and who annually demonstrates instructional leader  
21 competencies. If a level three-A teacher does not  
22 demonstrate essential competency in a given school year, the  
23 school district shall provide the teacher with additional  
24 professional development and peer intervention during the  
25 following school year. If by the end of that school year the

1 teacher fails to demonstrate essential competency, a school  
2 district may choose not to contract with the teacher to teach  
3 in the classroom.

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

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

18 (1) has been a level two teacher for at  
19 least three years;

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

25 (3) completes a department-approved

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

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

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

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