

S.F. No. 663 – Heritage Language and Culture Teachers

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Section 1. Supporting Heritage Language and Culture Teachers.

Subdivision 1. Purpose. States the purpose of the section is to increase the number of heritage language and culture teachers in Minnesota.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines “heritage language and culture teachers” as teachers with a connection to a community’s language and culture who use the connection to support students as they learn academic content or the language and culture of that community.

Subd. 3. Eligibility. Requires applicants to the program to:

- (1) hold a current license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or meet the criteria for a Tier 1 license under **section 122A.181**; and
- (2) seek initial, dual, or additional licensure in a heritage language.

Subd. 4. Heritage language and culture teacher licensure pathway program. (a) Directs the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board to develop a program to support licensure of heritage language and culture teachers. Requires the program to include the following:

- (1) a yearlong mentorship program;
- (2) monthly meetings for applicants to receive guidance on completing the portfolio process from a portfolio liaison;
- (3) a waiver for all portfolio and licensure testing fees; and
- (4) a portfolio review committee created by the board.

(b) Requires applicants seeking an initial license in a world language or culture to demonstrate meeting the standards of effective practice in **Minnesota Rules, part 8710.2000** and content-specific pedagogical standards in **Minnesota Rules 8710.4950** through the portfolio process.

(c) Requires applicants seeking a dual license to demonstrate meeting the content-specific pedagogical standards in **Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950**.

(d) Requires applicants seeking an additional license in a world language and culture to demonstrate meeting the content-specific pedagogical standards in **Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950**.

Subd. 5. Heritage language and culture educators seeking a world language license. Allows heritage language and culture teachers who are seeking a world language and culture license who demonstrate proficiency through one of the following methods to use this proficiency to evidence meeting the required content-specific world language and culture standards for their licensure in their heritage language:

- (1) passing a board-approved assessment;
- (2) holding a certificate to serve as a translator or interpreter; or
- (3) completing an undergraduate or postbaccalaureate degree from an accredited university where the majority of coursework was taught via the non-English instructional language.

Section 2. Appropriation.

Subdivision 1. Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. States that the sums indicated are appropriated from the general fund to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board in the designated fiscal years.

Subd. 2. Heritage language and culture teachers. Appropriates \$208,000 in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to support an additional licensure pathway program for heritage language and culture teachers.