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Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

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<https://www.mn.gov/pelsb>

AT A GLANCE

Oversight of teacher standards, licensure renewals, and ethics for more than 114,000 licensed educators in the state, nearly 84,000 of whom are actively teaching in Minnesota classrooms.

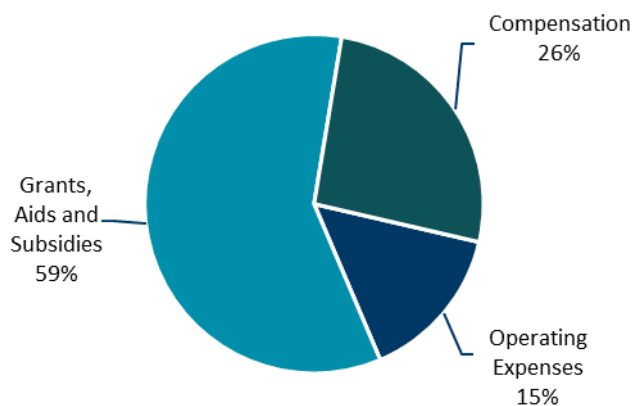
- Oversight and daily support for 38 teacher preparation program providers
- 6-10 reviews of Minnesota teacher preparation providers conducted annually
- Ongoing Program Review of nearly 670 licensure area programs
- Around 200 teacher conduct investigations reviewed annually
- Issuance and renewal of 48,000 educator licenses annually

PURPOSE

The mission of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) is to ensure all Minnesota students have high quality educators in their schools who are equipped to deliver effective instruction and meet the instructional needs of all learners. PELSB is an executive branch agency governed by an independent board, with members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The agency's operational duties are overseen and managed by an Executive Director. The agency provides leadership in teacher education, establishes and maintains licensure standards and renewal requirements, accredits teacher preparation providers and licensure programs, establishes and enforces the Code of Ethics for Minnesota teachers, administers between 10-17 million dollars in grant funds, administers alternative pathways to licensure programs, and advances legislation and rulemaking efforts to better support Minnesota's teachers and students.

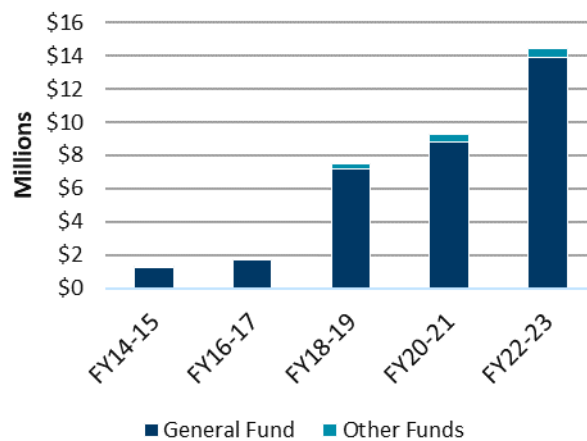
BUDGET

**Spending by Category
FY 2023 Actual**



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)

Historical Spending



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

The majority of the board's funding is spent to retain 28 FTE positions to conduct the oversight of teacher licensure and renewal, teacher preparation, alternative pathways, data and compliance, policy work, and teacher ethics. PELSB receives an annual appropriation from the legislature, and a special appropriation for licensure via portfolio expenses. All licensing fees for teachers other than those pursuing licensure by portfolio are paid to the

general fund. A significant portion of operating costs come from paying reviewers for program, portfolio, and grant review. Another major cost is updating and fixing IT systems. Other operating expenses include professional contractors, work-related travel expenses for board members and staff, and a monthly stipend for 13 board members.

STRATEGIES

Teacher Licensure & Renewal

PELSB's mission is to ensure all Minnesota students have high quality educators in their schools. One of the primary ways this mission is fulfilled is through licensure and renewal practices. PELSB's strategies here are two-fold. First, we strive to increase efficiency so we can quickly and thoroughly license Minnesota's educators. This process involves reaching out to higher education and alternative providers to obtain recommendations, working with the BCA on background checks, working with districts on tier 1 and 2 licenses, and working re-licensure committees on renewal requirements.

Second, we engage in legislative advocacy and rulemaking to develop licensure and renewal requirements for teachers that encompass the everchanging needs of Minnesota's students. The steady growth in processed licenses and permissions reflects our success in this area, despite having limited staff to meet our statutory deadline of issuing licenses within 30 days of receiving an application.

Teacher Preparation and Alternative Pathways to Licensure

As the agency responsible for accrediting teacher preparation institutions in the state, PELSB sets the standards for accreditation and conducts regular unit (institution) and program (licensure area) reviews. These visits require PELSB to train and maintain a regular body of peer reviewers, develop and update guidance documents, as well as plan and facilitate the actual accreditation reviews.

Minnesota is one of a handful of states with a licensure-via-portfolio pathway, a performance-based way to meet state standards and obtain professional licensure. PELSB contracts with a vendor to create and maintain an online platform for this pathway. Additionally, staff meet with school districts and educators to guide them through the process of using this pathway. Because licensure-via-portfolio recently underwent an overhaul, staff are also in the process of creating new guidance documents that cover dozens of licensure standard rules.

Policy Work

In alignment with our mission, PELSB engages in a significant amount of policy work. As an executive branch agency that is not a cabinet level agency, PELSB has the flexibility to work with various state legislators on passing bills that support Minnesota's teachers. Additionally, our agency has broad rulemaking authority and regularly engages in rulemaking projects that set standards for teacher preparation and licensure. In fact, PELSB has been a national leader in setting standards for the teaching profession that reflect current and emerging student needs. We have presented nationally on our most recent rulemaking project, which includes updating the Standards of Effective Practice.

Ethics

The Board conducts investigations into teacher conduct, enforcing the established Code of Ethics for Minnesota teachers. While changes in licensure requirements and the teacher shortage have resulted in an increase in certain incidents, PELSB works closely with districts and stakeholders to increase understanding of teacher ethics in an effort to reduce the number of cases.

Grants

When PELSB was first created it did not administer any grants. Over the last 6 years, PELSB has been allocated several grant programs. Most recently, PELSB was given the Paid Student Teaching Stipend Pilot to administer, increasing the amount of state funds we administer through grants to nearly \$17 million. Beyond dispersing funds, these grants require financial tracking and monitoring, as well as programmatic work to assess outcomes and create legislative reports.

RESULTS

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical Trends	Most Recent Data 2023-2024 (FY24)
Preparation Providers Reviewed	Quantity	Data collected from staff on number approved units.	The number of providers has grown to 38, including traditional, alternative pathway, transfer pathway providers. Data: 7 (FY22), 6 (FY23)	9
Preparation Programs Reviewed	Quantity and quality	Data collected from staff on number approved programs.	The overall number of programs has decreased to 667 due to consolidating baccalaureate and post baccalaureate programs, combining nonconventional and conventional models, closing down program models, and regular program. However, the review work has grown due to changes in administrative law and state statute. Data: 420 (FY22), 350 (FY23)	300
Portfolios Reviewed	Quantity	Data collected from staff on number of portfolios submitted and sent out for review. Note: Staff process a greater number of eligibility applications than reviews.	The number of reviews has increased due to more staff, outreach, and a new online platform. Data: 7 (FY22), 59 (FY23)	115

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical Trends	Most Recent Data 2023-2024 (FY24)
Permissions Granted	Quantity	Data collected from staff on number of applications processed by staff.	Demand for permissions has increased in response to teacher shortages. This requires additional customer service and licensing support. Data: 3,500 (FY22), 4,059 (FY23)	4,407
Licenses Issued	Quantity	Data from online licensing system.	This has increased to meet demand/student needs. Data: 7,000 (FY22), 14,070 (FY23)	15,831
Licenses Renewed	Quantity	Data from online licensing system.	We have seen an increase in renewals over time, with a more moderate change this past fiscal year. Data: 19,000 (FY22), 26,467 (FY23)	20,017
Ethics Cases Reviewed	Quantity	Data collected from staff on number of cases and applications reviewed.	This has remained fairly consistent. Traditionally around 200 cases are open each year. 146 cases had board action in the time period between 7/1/2022-7/1/2024. Data: 260 (FY22), 158 licensee files opened, and 599 apps reviewed (FY23)	217 licensee files opened + 567 apps reviewed
Rulemaking Projects (both in progress and completed)	Result – Standards revised over time	Data collected from staff on open and completed rulemaking projects.	Rulemaking has remained fairly consistent in response to legislative changes and adjustments in line with changes to academic standards, as well as industry best practices. Data: 2 (FY22), 4 (FY23)	2
Board & Committee Meetings Held	Quantity	Data collected on public meetings held.	Board work has remained consistent to address ongoing policy issues. Data: 78 (FY22), 74 (FY23)	76

Measure name	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical Trends	Most Recent Data 2023-2024 (FY24)
Grant Funds Administered	Quantity	Data on legislative appropriations.	Grant funds allocated to PELSB have increased in response to educators' needs. Data: \$3,883,880 (FY22), \$3,876,120 (FY23)	\$9,635,000

The current authority and responsibilities of the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board are delineated primarily in Minnesota Statutes §122A.05 – §122A.09, §122A.18, §214, and Minnesota Rules, Chapters 8700, 8705 and 8710.

(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual FY22	Actual FY23	Actual FY24	Estimate FY25	Forecast Base	
					FY26	FY27
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>						
1000 - General	5,728	8,140	13,261	18,068	14,981	14,981
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue	274	251	314	314	305	305
3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery	11	40				
Total	6,013	8,431	13,575	18,382	15,286	15,286
Biennial Change				17,514		(1,385)
Biennial % Change				121		(4)

Expenditures by Program

Prof Educator Licensing Std Bd	6,013	8,431	13,575	18,382	15,286	15,286
Total	6,013	8,431	13,575	18,382	15,286	15,286

Expenditures by Category

Compensation	2,110	2,156	2,578	3,268	3,049	3,034
Operating Expenses	1,052	1,310	1,446	5,360	1,612	1,627
Grants, Aids and Subsidies	2,851	4,960	9,536	9,734	10,605	10,605
Other Financial Transaction	0	5	14	20	20	20
Total	6,013	8,431	13,575	18,382	15,286	15,286

Full-Time Equivalents

21.70	22.25	23.19	28.23	25.23	24.23
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(Dollars in Thousands)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimate	Forecast Base	
	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
1000 - General						
Balance Forward In		1,394	0	668		
Direct Appropriation	7,046	7,085	13,929	24,436	14,981	14,981
Transfers In				50		
Transfers Out		330		7,086		
Cancellations		9	0			
Balance Forward Out	1,318		668			
Expenditures	5,728	8,140	13,261	18,068	14,981	14,981
Biennial Change in Expenditures				17,462		(1,367)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				126		(4)
Full-Time Equivalents	21.53	21.67	23.11	28.23	25.23	24.23
2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue						
Balance Forward In	101	133	166	171	162	162
Receipts	291	283	320	305	305	305
Transfers In			34	34	25	25
Transfers Out			34	34	25	25
Balance Forward Out	118	166	172	162	162	162
Expenditures	274	251	314	314	305	305
Biennial Change in Expenditures				103		(18)
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				20		(3)
Full-Time Equivalents			0.07			
3015 - ARP-State Fiscal Recovery						
Balance Forward In		133				
Direct Appropriation	144					
Cancellations		94				
Balance Forward Out	133					
Expenditures	11	40				
Biennial Change in Expenditures				(50)		0
Biennial % Change in Expenditures				(100)		
Full-Time Equivalents	0.17	0.58	0.01			

(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	Biennium 2026-27
Direct				
Fund: 1000 - General				
FY2025 Appropriations	24,436	24,436	24,436	48,872
Base Adjustments				
All Other One-Time Appropriations		(7,693)	(7,693)	(15,386)
One-Time IT Appropriations		(2,767)	(2,767)	(5,534)
Current Law Base Change		1,000	1,000	2,000
Minnesota Paid Leave Allocation		5	5	10
Forecast Base	24,436	14,981	14,981	29,962
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Planned Spending	314	305	305	610
Forecast Base	314	305	305	610
Revenue Change Summary				
Dedicated				
Fund: 2000 - Restrict Misc Special Revenue				
Forecast Revenues	305	305	305	610
Non-Dedicated				
Fund: 1000 - General				
Forecast Revenues	2,200	2,200	2,200	4,400