



MINNESOTA BOARD OF TEACHING

October 5, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Minnesota Board of Teaching is in the final stages of a rulemaking process that will change the licensure requirements for elementary and middle level teachers in Minnesota. In addition to meeting licensure requirements for grades K-6, the current licensure structure requires that elementary candidates also earn a "specialty" area license in one of six areas:

Communication Arts & Literature	Grades 5-8
Mathematics	Grades 5-8
Science	Grades 5-8
Social Studies	Grades 5-8
Pre-primary	Age 3-Pre-kindergarten
World Language & Culture	Grades K-8

Beginning next fall, on September 1, 2010, new elementary candidates will not be required to earn a specialty area license in addition to the K-6 license. The six specialty areas will still be options for these candidates, but will not be required for becoming licensed as an elementary teacher in Minnesota.

The Board of Teaching recognizes that there are teachers who have completed all of the K-6 licensure requirements but have not met the specialty area requirements. These teachers have been able to teach in a K-6 classroom on a limited license. Because the licensure rules are changing and a stand-alone K-6 license will be available beginning next fall, a teacher who has met the following conditions may apply for a stand-alone K-6 license beginning July 1, 2010:

1. All K-6 licensure requirements have been met; a Minnesota college or university with an approved K-6 program is able to verify completion and recommend licensure; and
2. The teacher has made at least one attempt at the content knowledge test in the specialty area (with the exception of Pre-primary, which does not have a test).

A teacher who meets these criteria may apply for a full K-6 stand-alone license beginning July 1, 2010.

Please note that a teacher in this situation is not required to make an additional attempt at passing the specialty area test during the 2009-2010 school year. If the teacher wishes to earn the specialty area license and make additional attempts to pass the test, he or she may choose to do so, but the issuance of the stand-alone K-6 license is not dependent on either taking or passing the test.

Feel free to contact me with any questions regarding teachers in this situation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Balmer".

Karen Balmer
Executive Director