

To: Commissioners Ricker and Liuzzi, and House Education Policy Chair Youakim
From: Dr. Fred Nolan, MREA Executive Director
Re: MREA responses to HF 3186, MDE Policy Bill
Date: Feb 18, 2020

MREA has reviewed the Governor's education policy bill and has identified a few areas of concern. We've also provided recommendations for amendments in two areas: graduation requirements and teacher licensing.

In Article 1 MREA objects to and recommends the following regarding proposed amendments 120B.024 Graduation Requirements to eliminate the science elective, establish an earth and space required credit, and require a credit of high school physical education (8.5-26).

MREA has two specific issues with these amendments and proposes a solution for one of the issues:

- a. By removing the science elective and adding the PE credit, the number of elective credits is actually being reduced by two, even though the amendment reads correctly. Electives are how high school students pursue their interests, explore topics, and increase engagement with schooling.
- b. By eliminating the science elective, the amendment eviscerates Subd 2, (b) An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the elective science credit required under subdivision 1, clause (4).... Agriculture is a major MN industry and of interest to rural communities and students.

Engineering, Technology, and the Applications of Science is one of the four Core Disciplinary Ideas in the Commissioner's Approved Draft of Science Standards, July 29, 2019 p. 2. This combination of further amendments elevates this Core Disciplinary Idea to the same status as Physical, Life and Earth and Space sciences without adding any additional standards and benchmarks, restores elective choices for students, and maintains the role of CTE and Ag Education in science standards education.

MREA recommends that the proposed science changes be further amended as follows:

- a. 8.14 (4) three credits of science, including at least one credit of biology, ~~one~~ and two credits of chemistry or physics, ~~and one elective credit of~~ or earth and space science or Engineering, Technology, and the Applications of Science beginning with the 9th grade class in the 2023-2024 school year
- 8.16. The combination of credits under this clause ~~must be~~ is sufficient to satisfy ~~(i) all of the academic standards in either chemistry or physics and (ii) all other~~ academic standards in science
- b. And amend Sub 2 (b) An agriculture science or career and technical education credit may fulfill the ~~elective~~ Engineering, Technology, and the Applications of Science science credit required under subdivision 1, clause (4)...



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In Article 3 teacher licensing, MREA supports the proposed amendments to 122A.181, 122A.183, 122A.185 (28.1-29.19) only with the addition of the following three amendments.

MREA supports Minnesota's students having teachers who are knowledgeable in their content and pedagogically competent. MREA also recognizes there are various avenues for persons to demonstrate that knowledge and competence, and supported the development of the Tiered License system to provide structure and recognition of this reality, and the reality of the teacher shortage crisis.

This combination of proposed amendments more clearly distinguish the Tiers, eliminates a barrier to Tier 4, and allows individuals to teach in areas of their knowledge without attaining upper level license Tiers.

MREA recommends adding these three amendments:

- a. Amend Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 122A.181, subdivision 2, to read:
Subd. 2. **Professional requirements.** (a) A candidate for a Tier 1 license must have a bachelor's degree to teach a class or course outside a career and technical education or career pathways course of study. The board must adopt rules providing exceptions from this requirement for the following: (1) a candidate that a district or charter school intends to hire for an assignment in the field of performing or visual arts that is equal to half of an assignment for a full-time equivalent teacher; (2) a candidate that a district or charter school intends to hire to teach a foreign language or to teach in an elementary school language immersion program and who is a native speaker of the language the candidate is expected to teach; and (3) a candidate enrolled in a board-approved residency model teacher preparation program who has completed at least two years of undergraduate coursework.
- b. Amend Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 122A.182, subdivision 3, to read:
Subd. 3. **Term of license and renewal.** The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must issue an initial Tier 2 license for a term of two years. A Tier 2 license may be renewed three times unless the requesting district or charter school can show good cause for additional renewals. A Tier 2 license to teach either a class or coursework in a career and technical education or career pathway course of study, or in a shortage area, as defined in section 122A.06, subdivision 6, may be renewed without limitation.
- c. Amend Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 122A.09, subdivision 9, to read:
Subd. 9. **Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board must adopt rules.**
(b) The board must adopt rules relating to fields of licensure, including:
(2) allowing a teacher to renew an out-of-field permission more than four times upon a showing of good cause for additional renewals; and
(3) allowing a teacher with an out-of-field permission to teach either a class or course in a career and technical education or career pathway course of study, or in a shortage area, as defined in section 122A.06, subdivision 6, to renew the out-of-field permission an unlimited number of times.



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