

**Summary of February 2023 Board Regulation Changes:**

***Educator Licensure and Preparation Program Approval (603 CMR 7.00)***

**Office of Educator Licensure**

**Licensure Call Center: 781-338-6600**  
Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

**Walk-in Welcome Center Service Counter**Hours: Monday-Friday8:45am - 4:45pm 

# Introduction

On February 28, 2023, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education voted to approve regulation changes impacting educator licensure, program approval and license renewal. The regulations were effective on Friday, March 17, 2023. This summary is intended to provide an overview of the changes that were approved by the Board. This summary is not intended to represent all the requirements necessary to receive a license or endorsement impacted by the change and only highlights what is new or has changed as a result of the new regulations. In some circumstances, an applicant may be reviewed under these new regulations immediately and in other situations, the applicant will have until July 17, 2025, to comply with the regulations that were in effect prior to March 17, 2023.

We hope that these regulation changes have a positive impact on our educators, prospective educators, and students by streamlining the licensure system yet maintaining the high standards that have resulted in Massachusetts schools leading the nation.

For questions about the regulations or licensure process, please contact the Licensure Call Center where a representative will be happy to assist you. The Call Center is open each business day from 9:00 a.m.-1:00p.m. and 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

# New Licenses

**Digital Literacy/Computer Science (PreK-6):** The Department offers a Digital Literacy/Computer Science (DLCS) license at the 5-12 grade span. This new level of licensure permits the Department to issue the DLCS license at the PreK-6 grade levels. Applicants for the PreK-6 DLCS license can demonstrate the subject matter knowledge of the license by passing the DLCS MTEL test. The Office of Educator Licensure will be able to conduct a competency review for the PreK-6 level when the subject matter knowledge requirements are developed.

**Military Spouse:** This license is designed for an individual who is the spouse of a military service member who is in the armed forces of the United States (U.S.), a reserve unit of the armed forces of the U.S. or in the National Guard of another state and is serving in the Commonwealth or in a border state while living in the Commonwealth. The Military Spouse must have a bachelor’s degree, hold a valid educator license from another state for the field and grade level of the Military Spouse license sought and has not documented compliance with all requirements for a Massachusetts Provisional, Initial, or Professional license for the field and grade level of the Military license sought. The Military Spouse license is valid for three years of employment in the Commonwealth.

**Provisional Principal/Assistant Principal:** The Department can now offer a Provisional license for an aspiring Principal or Assistant Principal. The requirements for this license are closely aligned with the requirements for an Initial license with the exception of having passed the Performance Assessment for Leaders (PAL) and the prerequisite experience. To qualify for a Provisional/Assistant Principal license an individual must have passed the Communication and Literacy Skills MTEL, have a bachelor’s degree, have a Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) Teacher or Administrator Endorsement, have at least three full years of employment in a district-wide, school-based or other educational setting and satisfied either an approved Principal/Assistant Principal state approved preparation program, the 500-hour apprenticeship/internship program or a Panel Review conducted by the Department. Out-of-state administrators who have completed a state approved Principal/Assistant Principal program or have a valid out-of-state comparable to at least a Massachusetts Initial Principal/Assistant Principal license are also eligible to obtain this new Provisional license.

# Revised names and/or grade levels of licenses

To accommodate applicants attempting to advance licenses after March 17, 2023, the drop-down menu of licenses appearing in ELAR will include the “ancestor” licenses noted below. Individuals who applied by March 17, 2023 for a new license in one of these fields and complete all requirements for these licenses prior to March 17, 2025, may qualify for licensure by meeting licensure requirements in effect prior to March 17, 2023 (as indicated in 603 CMR 7.15(14)(i)).

Individuals attempting to earn one of these licenses for the first time, as opposed to advancing from Provisional to Initial or Initial to Professional who cannot complete the requirements prior to March 17, 2025, may submit a signed request to change their application to the “successor” credential or any other credential offered by ESE.

Individuals attempting to advance their license(s) who do not complete the requirements prior to March 17, 2025, may be able to advance their license(s) through the Commissioner's Determination process. In addition, an individual advancing an “ancestor” license may choose to change their application to a “successor” license. Making such a change requires uploading a request to change the application to the new “ancestor” name and/or grade level.

Please be advised that any Provisional “ancestor” license(s) that are advanced to an Initial “successor” license, will lead to the expiration of the “ancestor” license(s) when the combined grade levels in each are identical. For example:

* A Provisional History (8-12) license advanced to the Initial History/Social Science (5-12) license will lead to the expiration of the Provisional History (8-12) license.

The same would be true for advancing from Initial to Professional and we are working on a process that will permit educators to swap to the most current version of their license during license renewal.

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| **Ancestor(s)** | **Successor(s)** |
| History (1-6) & (5-12) | History/Social Science (1-6) & (5-12) |
| Foreign Language (PreK-6) & (5-12) | World Language (PreK-6) & (5-12) |
| Social Science (5-12) | History/Social Science (1-6) & (5-12) |

In the case of School Counselor, the Department now offers an Al**l** levels license compared to the previous grade levels of PreK-8 and 5-12. A School Counselor that has only one of the old licenses offered, PreK-8 or 5-12, may apply for the All levels license and would need to satisfy the “new level” aspects of the new license. A School Counselor that has both the PreK-8 and 5-12 Initial licenses can apply for the All levels license Professional license when advancing and if granted, the old levels will be expired upon the issuance of the School Counselor (All) Professional license.

**Other Changes:**

**Extension of MTEL Alternative Assessment Pilot:** The Board approved to extend the pilot to June 30, 2025. For additional information, please visit [www.doe.mass.edu/mtel](http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel).

**Sheltered English Immersion (SEI) “reciprocity”:** The Department now can accept an SEI Endorsement or similar credential offered by another state or jurisdiction when the Commissioner has determined that there is alignment in the subject matter knowledge requirements. In addition, the Licensure Office can accept another state’s or jurisdiction’s English as a Second Language (ESL) license, or equivalent license, towards granting the SEI Endorsement.

**Removal of the Performance Assessment for Initial License for certain administrator licenses:** Although the Performance Assessment for Initial License was part of the requirements to obtain an administrator license for almost 20 years, this specific assessment was only developed for Principals (the Performance Assessment for Leaders). This specific assessment is no longer part of the requirements to obtain a Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent, Special Education Administrator, School Business Administrator or Supervisor/Director license. A candidate seeking one of these licenses would have a different performance assessment imbedded in the approved program, Panel Review or 500-hour apprenticeship/internship.

**Out-of-State exemption from the Performance Assessment for Leaders (PAL)** – With the creation of the Provisional license for Principal/Assistant Principal license, an out-of-state candidate for this license must now have three years of experience (or more) as a Principal/Assistant Principal to be exempt from PAL. Individuals who applied by March 17, 2023 have until March 17, 2025 to satisfy the requirements for an Initial license with only one year of experience as a Principal/Assistant Principal in another state.

**Program Approval Modifications:** The new regulations align the program approval requirements to the Guidelines for Program Approval and clarify the expectations that practicum experiences are in the licensure role.

**“12-graduate credit” option for a Professional license:** A change in language permits the Department to accept a graduate level course that addresses the content of the Professional license sought as opposed to requiring that the course only has content of the license sought or content and pedagogy. Please see the below examples of how this change will be implemented.

Please note that in the examples, the bold language is the subject matter knowledge applicable to the license sought and the italics language is examples of components of the course that fall outside of the course, meaning that prior to the regulation change, the course could not be accepted.

**Physical Education:**

* **PHED 726 - Legal Issues and Risk Management for Sport Coaching**
* (3 credits) This course will provide students with an understanding of general legal concepts, federal and state legislation, potential legal liabilities, and the duty of care for *sport coaches*. Students will examine current legal issues within amateur sport (e.g., **youth sport, high school sport**, intercollegiate sport, recreational sport), explore their responsibility as sport coaches to provide for the safety of sport participants and spectators, and identify strategies to prevent injuries and manage risks through their decision making and through active planning. Offered alternate years.

**English**:

* **ECED 842 - Language Arts and the Social Sciences for All PK-2 Learners**
* (3 credits) Prerequisite: ELED 805 and ELED 814 and ELED 815 Corequisite: ECED 861 and ECED 875  
  This standards-based course integrates the components of the **language arts (listening, speaking, writing, reading, viewing and visually representing)** and the four major topics of the *social sciences (civics, geography, history and economics*). Teacher candidates will examine and practice strategies focusing on the PK-2 learner. Emphasis will be given to the consideration and practice of content and strategies to develop oral language, writing and spelling, and visual literacy, as well as the use of informational texts across all disciplines, but with added emphasis in the social sciences. Offered fall and spring semesters.

**Mathematics:**

* **EDU 756 - Using Literature in Mathematics for Grades 1-8**
* 3 Credit(s) This course examines reasons **for integrating the study of mathematics** and *literature*, and **instructional methods that help children and adults better understand** *literature*, **mathematics**, and themselves. Standards useful in **assessing children’s mathematical trade books** will be presented. Participants will explore ways of enhancing children’s books to enrich the reader’s mathematical and literary experiences.

**Biology**:

* **EDC 778 - Methods of Teaching General Science I**
* 3 Credit(s) This course is the first of two designed to provide students with the training to be a teacher of General Science at the elementary or middle school level. Topics include the teaching of **biology***, chemistry, earth and space science, and physics*. Instruction will focus on methods and materials in the classroom, curricular issues and professional concerns, analysis of the teaching/learning processes, and a study of relevant teaching General Science.