

Grade Band Workgroup

7.28.2026

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Recap of the 7.21.26 Meeting
- III. Focus of Today's Meeting
- IV. Breakout groups
- V. Whole group share out
- VI. Next Steps

Welcome

Recap of 7.21.26 Meeting

Determine what the modifications, if any, to the Early Childhood and Elementary Education Educator preparation standards to change grade bands for the Early Childhood and Elementary Professional Educator Licenses.

- I. 4-step process
 - i. Read
 - ii. Consider
 - iii. Compare (I & II)
 - iv. Decide
- II. Scope and Overreach
 - i. Minimum Change - If standard requires modification, what is the smallest change to accomplish this?
 - ii. Overreach Check - What would take a change too far — into program design, mandate, and the like ?

Focus of Today's Meeting

- Recommend only those standard-language changes needed for the proposed grade-band shifts.
 - Early Childhood: Birth through Grade 2 -> Birth through Grade 3
 - Elementary Education: Grade 1 through Grade 6 -> Kindergarten through Grade 6
- Keep the work tied to candidate preparation, not program redesign.

Breakout Groups I

- There are three breakout groups; each facilitated by ISBE staff
- Each group will look at the totality of submissions and consider ‘overreach.’
- Two options:
 - No modification to the standard
 - Modification recommended, suggested language, and rationale for
- **IF** the group believes that the modification is reasonable in light of the question ‘is/are the modifications an overreach (e.g., too detailed, prescriptive, creates a mandate, **THEN** record this in the spreadsheet (Column F).
- **IF** the group believes that the modification is **not** reasonable in light of the question ‘is/are the modifications an overreach (e.g., too detailed, prescriptive, creates a mandate, **THEN** record this in the spreadsheet (Column F) with a brief explanation as to ‘why/how so’ (Column G), and a brief suggestion for modification to make it not an overreach (Column H).

Breakout Groups II

- Is the current language sufficient for the new grade band?
- If not, what is the smallest wording change that solves the grade-band fit problem?
- Does the revision avoid adding curriculum, assessment, screening, or grade-level skill mandates?

Whole-group share-out

Next Steps

- Prior to the 8.10.2026 meeting, ISBE staff will synthesize breakout logs and transcripts of the group's considerations into a revised standards-feedback summary and share with workgroup members.
- At the 8.10.2026 meeting, work will focus on refining/confirming recommendation language and rationale.
- This information will, for the 8.31.2026 meeting, be drafted into the administrative rule format for workgroup consideration.