

Grade Band Workgroup

8.10.2026

Agenda

- I. Welcome
- II. Recap of the 7.28.26 Meeting
- III. Focus of Today's Meeting
- IV. Breakout groups
- V. Whole group share out
- VI. Next Steps

Welcome

Recap of 7.28.26 Meeting

Through breakout groups, determine 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.

Attention was focused on maintaining reasonable scope, minimization of overreach to ensure IHE 'space' for realignment based upon institutional mission and vision considering the P-12 district assignability needs, developmentally appropriate practices, and state statutory and regulatory requirements.

Staff used this information to draft language to standards, as applicable.

- 'birth through Grade 2' to 'birth through Grade 3', 'grade one through grade six' to 'Kindergarten through grade six.'
- Tweaking of language to accentuate concepts germane to the extension of each grade band.
- Alignment of suggested 'new' standards within extant standards.

Focus of Today's Meeting

- Consider draft language in comparison to current language through breakout groups.
- Keep the work tied to candidate preparation, not program redesign.

Breakout Groups

- No Menti
- ISBE will facilitate discussion by identifying standard number, summary of changes, and ask if the modifications and/or tweaks are reasonable in light of the purpose of grade band changes.

Whole-group share-out

Next Steps

- Prior to the 8.31.2026 Meeting, ISBE staff will synthesize breakout logs and transcripts of the group's considerations into draft rules.
- At the 8.31.2026 Meeting, additional feedback will be collected to inform needed refinements in preparing the rules for approval for public comment.
- The goal is to release for public comment in fall/early process to ensure a 7.1.2027 effective date.
- Public comment is another way for stakeholders to provide feedback on the proposed rules.