

122A.631 SUPPORTING HERITAGE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE TEACHERS.

Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this section is to increase the number of heritage language and culture teachers in Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Definition.** "Heritage language and culture teachers" means teachers with a connection to a community's language and culture who use this connection to support students as they learn academic content or the language and culture of that particular community.

Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** Applicants for the heritage language and culture licensure pathway program must:

(1) hold a current license issued by the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or meet the criteria for licensure in section 122A.181; and

(2) seek initial, dual, or additional licensure in a heritage language.

Subd. 4. **Heritage language and culture teacher licensure pathway program.** (a) The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board shall develop a program to support initial and additional licensure for heritage language and culture teachers. The program must include:

(1) a yearlong mentorship program;

(2) monthly meetings where applicants receive guidance on completing the portfolio process from a portfolio liaison, dedicated specifically to facilitating this program;

(3) a stipend to cover substitute teachers when meetings take place during the school day;

(4) a waiver for all portfolio and licensure testing fees; and

(5) a portfolio review committee created by the board.

(b) For applicants seeking an initial license in a world language and culture, the applicant must demonstrate meeting the standards of effective practice in Minnesota Rules, part 8710.2000, and content-specific pedagogical standards in Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950, through the portfolio process.

(c) For applicants seeking a dual license, the applicant must demonstrate meeting the standards of effective practice in Minnesota Rules, part 8710.2000, content-specific pedagogical standards in Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950, and all standards for the chosen dual license through the portfolio process.

(d) For applicants seeking an additional license in a world language and culture, the applicant must demonstrate meeting the content-specific pedagogical standards in Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950.

Subd. 5. **Heritage language and culture educators seeking a world language license.** Heritage language and culture teachers seeking a world language and culture license pursuant to Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4950, who demonstrate proficiency through one of the following may use this proficiency to evidence meeting the required content-specific world language and culture standards, which do not include content-specific pedagogical standards, for licensure in their heritage language:

(1) passing a board-adopted assessment;

(2) holding a certificate to serve as a translator or interpreter; or

(3) completing an undergraduate or postbaccalaureate degree from an accredited university where the majority of coursework was taught via the non-English instructional language.

History: *2023 c 55 art 5 s 54*