

# SENATE BILL NO. 189

March 19, 2025, Introduced by Senator BELLINO and referred to Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1531 (MCL 380.1531), as amended by 2023 PA 110.

## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

- 1       Sec. 1531. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the  
2       superintendent of public instruction shall determine the  
3       requirements for and issue all licenses, certificates, and  
4       endorsements for teachers, including preprimary teachers and  
5       teachers as counselors, in the public schools of this state.  
6       (2) Except as otherwise provided in this act **and subject to**

1 **subsection (14)**, the superintendent of public instruction shall  
2 ~~only~~ issue a teaching certificate or additional endorsement **only** to  
3 an individual who has passed appropriate available examinations.

4 The superintendent of public instruction may accept passage of  
5 an equivalent examination approved by the superintendent of public  
6 instruction to meet this requirement for an individual holding a  
7 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally  
8 recognized Indian tribe.

9 (3) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the  
10 superintendent of public instruction shall ~~only~~ issue a teaching  
11 certificate **only** to an individual who has met the elementary or  
12 secondary, as applicable, reading credit requirements established  
13 under superintendent of public instruction rule. If an individual  
14 holds a teaching certificate, notwithstanding any rule to the  
15 contrary, the superintendent of public instruction shall not  
16 advance the individual's certification to professional  
17 certification unless the individual has successfully completed at  
18 least a 3-credit course of study with appropriate field experiences  
19 in the diagnosis and remediation of reading disabilities and  
20 differentiated instruction. To meet this requirement, the course of  
21 study should include the following elements, as determined by the  
22 department to be appropriate for the individual's certification  
23 level and endorsements: interest inventories, English language  
24 learning screening, visual and auditory discrimination tools,  
25 language expression and processing screening, phonemics, phonics,  
26 vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, spelling and writing assessment  
27 tools, and instructional strategies. An individual may complete the  
28 course of study as part of ~~his or her~~ **the individual's** teacher  
29 preparation program.

1           (4) Any revisions to existing reading standards must include  
2 the recognition of reading disorders and enable teachers to make  
3 referrals for instruction and support for pupils with reading  
4 disorders.

5           (5) Subject to subsection (8), if an individual holding a  
6 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally  
7 recognized Indian tribe applies to the superintendent of public  
8 instruction for a Michigan teaching certificate and meets the  
9 requirements of this subsection, the superintendent of public  
10 instruction shall issue to the individual a Michigan teaching  
11 certificate and endorsements comparable to those the individual  
12 holds in the other state or country or with the federally  
13 recognized Indian tribe without requiring the individual to pass  
14 the appropriate **available** examinations ~~otherwise~~ required under  
15 subsection (2) or to complete the reading credit requirement  
16 established under superintendent of public instruction rule as  
17 described in subsection (3). To be eligible to receive a Michigan  
18 teaching certificate under this subsection, an individual shall  
19 provide evidence satisfactory to the department that ~~he or she~~ **the**  
20 **individual** has taught successfully for at least 3 years in a  
21 position for which the individual's teaching certification from the  
22 other state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe was  
23 valid.

24           (6) Subject to subsection (8), an individual holding a  
25 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally  
26 recognized Indian tribe is eligible for a Michigan professional  
27 education certificate if the individual meets both of the  
28 following:

29           (a) The individual has taught successfully for at least 3

1 years in a position for which the individual's teaching  
2 certification from the other state, country, or federally  
3 recognized Indian tribe was valid.

4 (b) The individual meets the elementary or secondary, as  
5 applicable, reading credit requirement established under  
6 superintendent of public instruction rule as described in  
7 subsection (3).

8 (7) Subject to subsection (8), if an individual holding a  
9 teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally  
10 recognized Indian tribe applies to the superintendent of public  
11 instruction for an additional endorsement on a valid Michigan  
12 teaching certificate and meets the requirements of this subsection,  
13 the superintendent of public instruction shall issue the individual  
14 an endorsement comparable to that which the individual holds in the  
15 other state or country or with the federally recognized Indian  
16 tribe without requiring that the individual pass the appropriate  
17 available examinations otherwise required under subsection (2). To  
18 be eligible to receive an additional endorsement under this  
19 subsection, an individual shall provide evidence satisfactory to  
20 the department that he or she has taught successfully for at least  
21 3 years in a position for which the individual's teaching  
22 endorsement from the other state, country, or federally recognized  
23 Indian tribe is valid.

24 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall deny a  
25 Michigan teaching certificate or endorsement to an individual  
26 described in subsection (5), (6), ~~or (7)~~, **or (14)** for fraud,  
27 material misrepresentation, or concealment in the individual's  
28 application for a certificate or for a conviction for which an  
29 individual's teaching certificate may be suspended or revoked under

1 section 1535a.

2 (9) For the purposes of this section, the superintendent of  
3 public instruction, based ~~upon~~~~on~~ criteria recommended by a  
4 committee of teachers, representatives of approved teacher  
5 education institutions, Michigan education organizations and  
6 associations, and experts in measurement and assessment, shall  
7 develop, select, or develop and select 1 or more subject area  
8 examinations. In addition, the superintendent of public  
9 instruction, based ~~upon~~~~on~~ criteria recommended by the committee  
10 described in this subsection, shall approve a reading subtest to be  
11 taken and passed by individuals seeking pre-K to grade 3 or grade 3  
12 to grade 6-level endorsement. If the department develops for use  
13 under this subsection an examination that had previously been  
14 contracted for using a competitive bid process, then the department  
15 shall not expend on the development of that examination an amount  
16 that exceeds the amount that the department expended on procurement  
17 of the most recent competitively-bid version of that examination.  
18 The competitive bid process must address validity, reliability, and  
19 other technical standards of the examinations and of the  
20 appropriate administration and use of those examinations.

21 (10) Not later than November 30 of each year, the  
22 superintendent of public instruction shall submit in writing a  
23 report on the development or selection and use of the subject area  
24 examinations to the house and senate education committees. The  
25 report must also contain a financial statement regarding revenue  
26 received from the assessment of fees levied under subsection (12)  
27 and the amount of and any purposes for which that revenue was  
28 expended.

29 (11) The examinations required by this section may be taken at

1 different times during an approved teacher preparation program, but  
2 the examinations, as applicable, must be passed before an  
3 individual is recommended for certification.

4 (12) The department, or if approved by the superintendent of  
5 public instruction, a private testing service, may assess fees for  
6 taking the appropriate available examinations described in  
7 subsection (2). The fees, which must be set by the superintendent  
8 of public instruction, must not exceed the actual cost of the  
9 examination and of administering the examination. Fees received by  
10 the department must be expended solely for administrative expenses  
11 that it incurs in implementing this section. If the superintendent  
12 of public instruction increases a fee charged for an examination  
13 under this subsection, at least 1 year before implementing the fee  
14 increase, the department shall notify each approved teacher  
15 education institution of the amount of the fee increase. An  
16 approved teacher education institution shall notify each of its  
17 affected students of the timing and amount of such a fee increase.

18 (13) If an individual holding a teaching certificate from  
19 another state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe  
20 applies for a Michigan teaching certificate and meets all  
21 requirements for the Michigan teaching certificate except passage  
22 of the appropriate available examinations under subsection (2) or  
23 the reading credit requirement under subsection (3), the  
24 superintendent of public instruction shall issue a nonrenewable  
25 temporary teaching certificate, good for 1 year, to the individual.  
26 The superintendent of public instruction shall not issue a Michigan  
27 teaching certificate to the individual after expiration of the  
28 temporary teaching certificate unless the individual has met the  
29 requirements of this section.

(14) Except as otherwise provided in this act, the superintendent of public instruction shall issue a teaching certificate to a noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher as described in sections 1233b and 1233c without requiring passage of the appropriate available examinations described in subsection (2) if the noncertificated, nonendorsed teacher has taught successfully in this state, as determined by the department, for not less than 3 years. The superintendent of public instruction shall issue any applicable subject area or grade level endorsements to an individual described in this subsection without requiring passage of the appropriate available examinations described in subsection (2) if that individual has served as a teacher for those subject areas or grade levels successfully, as determined by the department, for not less than 3 years in this state.

(15) ~~(14)~~—As used in this section:

(a) "Additional endorsement" means an endorsement added to a Michigan teaching certificate after initial issuance of the certificate.

(b) "An individual holding a teaching certificate from another state, country, or federally recognized Indian tribe" means an individual with a valid teaching certificate or an individual who is eligible for a teaching certificate in the state or country or with the federally recognized Indian tribe in which or with which the individual is certificated or eligible for certification.

(c) "Subject area examination" means an examination related to an endorsement area for the purpose of demonstrating the applicant's knowledge and understanding of the subject matter and determining whether ~~or not~~ an applicant is eligible for a Michigan teaching certificate or endorsement.

1           (16) ~~(15)~~—The superintendent of public instruction shall  
2 promulgate rules for the implementation of this section.

3           (17) ~~(16)~~—Not later than January 1, 2019, the superintendent  
4 of public instruction, in consultation with the department of labor  
5 and economic opportunity and groups or individuals representing  
6 employers, economic development agencies, trade unions, secondary  
7 school principals, middle and elementary school principals,  
8 teachers, school district and intermediate school district  
9 superintendents, and others as determined appropriate by the  
10 department, shall promulgate rules to allow an individual to use  
11 time spent engaging with local employers or technical centers  
12 toward the renewal of a teaching certificate in the same manner as  
13 state continuing education or professional development.