

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 1600

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Concerning elementary math specialists.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Education (originally sponsored by Representatives Probst, Anderson, Maxwell and Roberts).

**House Committee on Education**  
**House Committee on Ways & Means**  
**Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education**

### **Background:**

#### Professional Educator Standards Board.

The purpose of the Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) is to establish policies and requirements for the preparation and certification of education professionals, ensuring that they:

- are competent in the professional knowledge and practice for which they are certified;
- have a foundation of skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to help students with diverse needs, abilities, cultural experiences, and learning styles that meet or exceed the state learning goals; and
- are committed to research-based practice and career-long professional development.

The PESB also serves as an advisory body to the Superintendent of Public Instruction on issues related to educator recruitment, hiring, mentoring and support, professional growth, retention, evaluation, and revocation and suspension of licensure.

#### Teaching Endorsements.

A teacher must have an endorsement to his or her teaching certificate in order to teach a particular subject. At the secondary level, endorsements are based on specific academic subjects (e.g., mathematics, science, English, etc.). In contrast, a teacher with an elementary education endorsement may teach any academic subject to students in grades kindergarten through 8.

The PESB has created a procedure for adding specialty endorsements that are not required by law for the teacher to teach that subject. To date, there are five specialty endorsements: (1)

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deaf education; (2) environmental and sustainability education; (3) teacher of the visually impaired; (4) orientation and mobility teacher; and (5) gifted education.

A number of states, including Michigan, Ohio, Virginia, and Arizona, have created some form of endorsement in teaching elementary mathematics. In some cases the state requires this endorsement for teaching certain grade levels; in other cases the endorsement is an optional supplement.

**Summary:**

The PESB is encouraged to develop standards and adopt a specialty endorsement for an Elementary Mathematics Specialist (Specialist). A Specialist is a certificated teacher who has demonstrated the following knowledge and skills:

- enhanced mathematics content knowledge and skills necessary to provide students, in grades kindergarten through 8, with a deep understanding of the essential academic learning requirements and performance expectations in mathematics;
- knowledge and skills in a variety of instructional strategies for teaching mathematics content; and
- knowledge and skills in instructional strategies targeted for students struggling in mathematics.

School districts are encouraged to use Specialists for direct instruction of students using an itinerant teacher model where the Specialist moves from classroom to classroom within the school.

School districts may work with local colleges and universities, educator preparation programs, and educational service districts to develop and offer training and professional development opportunities in the knowledge and skills necessary for a teacher to be considered a Specialist.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	73	24
Senate	46	2

**Effective:** July 22, 2011