122A.24 ALTERNATIVE PREPARATION LICENSING FOR TEACHERS.

Subdivision 1. **Requirements.** (a) A preparation program that is an alternative to the postsecondary teacher preparation program as a means to acquire an entrance license is established. The program may be offered in any instructional field.

- (b) To participate in the alternative preparation program, the candidate must:
- (1) have a bachelor's degree;
- (2) pass an examination of skills in reading, writing, and mathematics as required by section 122A.18;
- (3) have been offered a job to teach in a school district, group of districts, or an education district approved by the Board of Teaching to offer an alternative preparation licensure program;
 - (4)(i) have a college major in the subject area to be taught; or
 - (ii) have five years of experience in a field related to the subject to be taught; and
 - (5) document successful experiences working with children.
- (c) An alternative preparation license is of one year duration and is issued by the Board of Teaching to participants on admission to the alternative preparation program.
- (d) The Board of Teaching must ensure that one of the purposes of this program is to enhance the school desegregation/integration policies adopted by the state.
- Subd. 2. **Characteristics.** The alternative preparation program has the following characteristics:
- (1) staff development conducted by a resident mentorship team made up of administrators, teachers, and postsecondary faculty members;
- (2) an instruction phase involving intensive preparation of a candidate for licensure before the candidate assumes responsibility for a classroom;
 - (3) formal instruction and peer coaching during the school year;
- (4) assessment, supervision, and evaluation of a candidate to determine the candidate's specific needs and to ensure satisfactory completion of the program;
- (5) a research based and results oriented approach focused on skills teachers need to be effective;
 - (6) assurance of integration of education theory and classroom practices; and

- (7) the shared design and delivery of staff development between school district personnel and postsecondary faculty.
- Subd. 3. **Program approval.** (a) The Board of Teaching must approve alternative preparation programs based on criteria adopted by the board.
- (b) The board shall permit demonstration of licensure competencies in school-based and other nontraditional pathways to teacher licensure.
- Subd. 4. **Approval for standard entrance license.** The resident mentorship team must prepare for the Board of Teaching an evaluation report on the performance of the alternative preparation licensee during the school year and a positive or negative recommendation on whether the alternative preparation licensee shall receive a standard entrance license.
- Subd. 5. **Standard entrance license.** The Board of Teaching must issue a standard entrance license to an alternative preparation licensee who has successfully completed the school year in the alternative preparation program and who has received a positive recommendation from the licensee's mentorship team.
- Subd. 6. **Qualified teacher.** A person with a valid alternative preparation license is a qualified teacher within the meaning of section 122A.16.

History: 1990 c 562 art 7 s 7; 1993 c 337 s 7; 1994 c 647 art 8 s 18; 1998 c 397 art 8 s 67-69,101; art 11 s 3; 1Sp2001 c 6 art 2 s 8