

The New Reflective Practice Requirement for Relicensure: What You Need to Know

Who does it affect? The new requirement affects anyone who carries a MN teaching license and is up for renewal *anytime* after July 1st, 2012. There are exceptions for Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs), Administrators, and School Service personnel (social workers, counselors, etc.), provided that they haven't taught *at all* during the prior 5 year period. If any of these exception groups *have taught at all* during that period, then they also much fulfill the requirement.

What is the purpose of the requirement? The purpose of the requirement is to document that all licensed MN teachers are engaging in on-going, rather than or in addition to event-specific, professional development that is focused exclusively on the relationship between improving classroom practice and student learning. What it does for those teachers who are engaging in such activities as regular PLCs or mentorships or instructional coaching in their buildings an opportunity to reflect those activities in their petition for relicensure. For those teachers who are not regularly engaging in such activities, or work in buildings that do not provide such embedded professional learning opportunities, this requirement creates an incentive for those schools to get on board with current best practices in professional development.

What is required? When applying for 5-year relicensure, in addition to the usual CEU clock-hour submissions, teachers must supply their CEU committees with *a written reflection* on their participation in various forms of job-embedded professional development during the 5 years prior to their relicensure.

The law specifies four ways that teachers can meet this requirement, requiring documentation of:

- (1) support for student learning;*
- (2) use of best practices techniques and their applications to student learning;*
- (3) collaborative work with colleagues that includes examples of collegiality such as attested-to committee work, collaborative staff development programs, and professional learning community work; or*
- (4) continual professional development that may include (i) job-embedded or other ongoing formal professional learning or (ii) for teachers employed for only part of the renewal period of their expiring license, other similar professional development efforts made during the relicensure period.*

VOA's CEU Committee *recommends* the following submissions to complete this requirement:

- 1) A 1 page reflection (using the template provided below, if desired), OR a brief cover-sheet and their personal Professional Development Plan, connecting improvements in the individual's teaching practice to their utilization of the criteria listed above (required by the state), plus;
- 2) A CEU clock-hour request for a maximum of 5 hours for this particular activity(if needed);
- 3) Samples of any and/or all of the following (strongly suggested by VOA):
 - a. Evidence of student data analysis, resulting in SMART goals tied to a school's Improvement Plan and/or the individual teacher's Professional Development Plan;
 - b. Minutes of PLC meetings;
 - c. Mentorship/coaching observations;
 - d. Other similar types of documents.

Reflection of Professional Learning Statement

VOA CEU Committee

I, _____, do hereby affirm that I have met the MN Board of Teaching's requirement of a Reflection of Professional Learning for relicensure, pursuant to MN statute 122A, Subdivision B, which requires written reflection evidence of any or all of the following activities:

- (1) support for student learning;*
- (2) use of best practices techniques and their applications to student learning;*
- (3) collaborative work with colleagues that includes examples of collegiality such as attested-to committee work, collaborative staff development programs, and professional learning community work; or*
- (4) continual professional development that may include (i) job-embedded or other ongoing formal professional learning or (ii) for teachers employed for only part of the renewal period of their expiring license, other similar professional development efforts made during the relicensure period.*

Signature: _____

CEU Chair Signature:

DATE: _____

Date: _____

In the space provided below, please provide a written reflection statement on your involvement in the activities listed above over the past 5 years and the effect your involvement has had on your professional development and/or student learning: