

**2025 HOUSE EDUCATION**

**HB 1261**

# 2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1261  
1/21/2025

Relating to special education strategist credentials.
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2:31 p.m. Chairman Heinert called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Heinert, Vice Chairman Schreiber- Beck, Representatives, Conmy, Hager, Hatlestad, Hauck, Heilman, Jonas, Longmuir, Maki, Marchall, Morton, Novak, Osowski

### Discussion Topics:

- Clarification of language
- Special Education Endorsements

2:33 p.m. Representative Schreiber- Beck introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #30451

2:35 p.m. Mary McCarvel-O'Conner, Director of the Office of Special Designed Services, NDDPI, testified in favor and submitted testimony. #30531

2:38 p.m. Representative Schreiber- Beck moved a Do Pass.

2:38 p.m. Representative Hatlestad seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Passed: 14-0-0

2:39 p.m. Representative Marschall moved to place the bill on the Consent Calander.

2:39 p.m. Representative Novak seconded the motion.

<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Cynthia Schreiber-Beck	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative LaurieBeth Hager	Y
Representative Patrick R. Hatlestad	Y
Representative Dori Hauck	Y
Representative Matthew Heilman	Y
Representative Jim Jonas	Y
Representative Donald W. Longmuir	Y
Representative Roger A. Maki	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Desiree Morton	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Doug Osowski	Y

Motion Passed: 14-0-0

Bill Carrier: Representative Hatlestad

2:40 p.m. Chairman Heinert closed the hearing.

*Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1261 ([25.1070.01000](#))**

**Education Committee (Rep. Heinert, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1261 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.

House Bill No. 1261

House Education Committee Hearing

1/21/2025

2:30PM

Chairman: Representative Pat Heinert

Bill Introduction: Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative

Purpose of the bill: Repeal 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18.06 because the Education Standards and Practices Board has the authority to issue a special education strategist endorsement making these sections of code unnecessary. Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, DPI Director of Specially Designed Services, will respond to questions you may have regarding this bill.

Thank you for your consideration HB 1261.

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**15.1-18-05. Special education strategist credential.** In addition to any other credential, the superintendent of public instruction shall implement a special education strategist credential, effective August 1, 2001. Any individual who obtains a special education strategist credential and meets all other teacher licensure requirements imposed by statute may provide special education services in the areas of intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, and specific learning disabilities.

**15.1-18-06.** Provisional special education strategist credential. Beginning August 1, 2001, upon application the superintendent of public instruction shall issue a provisional special education strategist credential to any individual who is licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board and who holds a credential applicable to the areas of intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, or specific learning disabilities. The provisional credential must be made available to the individual for the lesser of three years or the period of time required by the individual to complete the requirements for a special education strategist credential. 15.1-18-07. Elementary school teach

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1261  
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
January 21, 2025**

**By: Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, Director  
Office of Specially Designed Services  
701-328-4560**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, and I am the Director of the Office of Specially Designed Services with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak on behalf of the ND Department of Public Instruction in favor of HB 1261 regarding repealing the North Dakota Century Code 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18-06 relating to special education strategist credentials and provisional special education strategist credentials.

Before July 1, 2008, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction issued special education credentials. On July 1, 2008, the authority to issue special education endorsements was transferred to the Education Standards and Practices Board. The repealing of North Dakota Century Code 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18-06 serves as a clean-up bill to align with the current practices of issuing special education endorsements.

Chairman Heinert and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you may have.

**2025 SENATE EDUCATION**

**HB 1261**

# 2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Education Committee Room JW216, State Capitol

HB 1261  
2/18/2025

Relating to special education strategist credentials.
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11:00 a.m. Chairman Beard called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Beard; Vice-Chairman Lemm; Senators: Axtman, Boschee, Gerhardt.

Members Absent: Senator Wobbema

### Discussion Topics:

- Special Education Endorsements

11:00 a.m. Representative Schreiber-Beck, District 25, introduced the bill and submitted testimony #37932.

11:01 a.m. Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, Director Office of Specially Designed Services ND Department of Public Instruction, testified in favor and submitted testimony #37981.

11:04 a.m. Senator Boschee moved Do Pass.

11:04 a.m. Senator Lemm seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Randy D. Lemm	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Mike Wobbema	AB

Motion Passed 5-0-1

Senator Boschee will carry the bill.

11:05 a.m. Chairman Beard closed the hearing.

*Susan Helbling, Committee Clerk*



**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1261 ([25.1070.01000](#))**

**Education Committee (Sen. Beard, Chairman)** recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). HB 1261 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

House Bill No. 1261

Senate Education Committee Hearing

2/18/25 11am Room 216

Chairman: Senator Todd Beard

Vice-Chair: Senator Randy Lemm

Testimony by: Cynthia Schreiber-Beck, District 25 Representative

House Bill No. 1261 removes two sections of code (below) that are no longer necessary since the authority to issue special education endorsements was transferred to the Education Standards and Practices Board.

Please give House Bill 1261 a do pass.

Thank you.

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**15.1-18-05. Special education strategist credential.** *In addition to any other credential, the superintendent of public instruction shall implement a special education strategist credential, effective August 1, 2001. Any individual who obtains a special education strategist credential and meets all other teacher licensure requirements imposed by statute may provide special education services in the areas of intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, and specific learning disabilities.*

**15.1-18-06. Provisional special education strategist credential.** *Beginning August 1, 2001, upon application the superintendent of public instruction shall issue a provisional special education strategist credential to any individual who is licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board and who holds a credential applicable to the areas of intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance, or specific learning disabilities. The provisional credential must be made available to the individual for the lesser of three years or the period of time required by the individual to complete the requirements for a special education strategist credential.*

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1261**  
**Senate EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**February 18, 2025**  
**By: Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, Director**  
**Office of Specially Designed Services**  
**701-328-4560**

**North Dakota Department of Public Instruction**

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Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee:

My name is Mary McCarvel-O'Connor, and I am the Director of the Office of Specially Designed Services with the Department of Public Instruction. I am here to speak on behalf of the ND Department of Public Instruction in favor of HB 1261 regarding repealing the North Dakota Century Code 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18-06 relating to special education strategist credentials and provisional special education strategist credentials.

Before July 1, 2008, the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction issued special education credentials. On July 1, 2008, the authority to issue special education endorsements was transferred to the Education Standards and Practices Board. The repealing of North Dakota Century Code 15.1-18-05 and 15.1-18-06 serves as a clean-up bill to align with the current practices of issuing special education endorsements.

Chairman Beard and Members of the Committee that concludes my prepared testimony, and I will stand for any questions that you may have.