

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR STANDARDS BOARD (PESB)

Quick Reference Profile

Date: December 12, 2025

Purpose: Governance layer completion for Moses Lake transparency project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) controls **WHO can teach** in Moses Lake schools through:

- **Teacher certification requirements** (sets all standards)
- **Educator preparation program approval** (which colleges can prepare teachers)
- **Continuing education requirements** (clock hours, professional growth)
- **Educator discipline** (code of conduct violations, certificate revocation)

KEY DIFFERENCE FROM SBE: While State Board of Education controls **WHAT** students must learn (graduation requirements), PESB controls **WHO** can teach them (teacher qualifications).

STRUCTURE

Board Composition: - 12 members total - All appointed by Governor - Majority must be “active practitioners” - Majority of practitioners must be classroom-based - Terms: 4 years (vary by member) - Members continue serving until replacement appointed

Current Members (10 visible from website): 1. Adam Aguilera - Evergreen Public Schools, WEA 2. Special Ed Teacher - Helen Baller Elementary, Camas SD 3. Alejandro Castro-Wilson (Executive Committee) - Special Ed Teacher, Renton SD 4. Dr. Tenesha Fremstad - Principal, Tukwila SD 5. Michaela Jackson - Director BAS Programs, Lower Columbia College 6. Susan Lathrop - OSPI Interim Chief Education Officer (Ex-officio) 7. Juan Mata - School Counselor, Wahluke SD (Eastern WA!) 8. Denise Renteria - Early Learning Coordinator, Puget Sound ESD 9. Dr. Kevin Roxas - Dean, WWU Woodring College of Education 10. Dr. Nicole Talbert (Executive Committee) - CTE Teacher, East Valley SD (Eastern WA!)

Executive Director: Dr. Hernandez-Scott (staff, not board member)

Geographic Note: At least 2 members from Eastern Washington (Mata-Wahluke, Talbert-East Valley)

POWERS OVER MOSES LAKE SCHOOLS

Direct Control

Teacher Certification: - Sets requirements to become a teacher in Washington - Determines which out-of-state certifications are recognized - Establishes testing requirements - Mandates continuing education (clock hours, professional growth plans)

Preparation Program Approval: - Approves which colleges can prepare teachers (e.g., CWU, EWU, WWU) - Sets standards programs must meet - Reviews program performance - Can shut down failing programs

Educator Discipline: - Establishes code of conduct for all teachers - Investigates violations - Can revoke or suspend teaching certificates - Issues "letters of concern" for minor issues

Professional Development: - Sets requirements for certificate renewal - Approves clock hour providers - Mandates specific training topics: - STEM integration - Suicide prevention - Equity-based practices - Cultural competency - Government-to-government relations - Social-emotional learning

Specific Moses Lake Impact

Every teacher at Moses Lake High School must: 1. Meet PESB certification requirements 2. Complete PESB-mandated continuing education 3. Follow PESB code of conduct 4. Participate in PESB-required trainings

If Moses Lake wants to hire a teacher: - Must verify PESB certification - Cannot hire anyone without proper PESB credentials - Must ensure teacher maintains certification

If teacher has conduct violation: - OSPI Office of Professional Practice investigates - PESB makes final determination on certificate action - Can result in teaching career ending statewide

CURRENT PRIORITIES (2026)

Major Initiatives:

- 1. Teacher Shortage Response**
 - Alternative route programs
 - "Grow Your Own" initiatives
 - Recruiting Washington Teachers
 - Reduce barriers to profession
- 2. Workforce Diversity**
 - Bilingual educator recruitment
 - First Peoples' language/culture certification
 - Equity-focused preparation standards

3. Continuing Education Reform

- Streamlined clock hour approval (HB 1377 implementation)
- Activity-based clock hour equivalents
- Professional growth plan improvements

4. Code of Ethics Development

- Legislative report due September 2025
- Stakeholder engagement on standards
- Alignment with state goals

5. Program Quality Assurance

- Indicator-based reviews
- Collaborative feedback loops P-12 ↔ Higher Ed
- CCDEI (Cultural Competency, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion) standards

KEY POLICIES & STANDARDS

Cultural Competency Required: All educators must demonstrate “cultural responsiveness and center diversity, equity, and inclusion” in supporting students.

Required Instructional Topics: - Issues of abuse (identification, reporting, prevention) - Equity-based school practices - Government-to-government relations (tribal) - Social-emotional learning - STEM integration - Suicide prevention

Educator Code of Conduct Includes: - Social media and digital communications standards - Sexual misconduct prohibitions (including grooming definition) - Professional boundaries - Reporting obligations

Discipline Levels: 1. Letter of Concern (non-disciplinary, preventive) 2. Conditional Certificate (restrictions) 3. Suspension (temporary loss of certificate) 4. Revocation (permanent loss of certificate)

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER ENTITIES

Works With: - OSPI (implementation agency) - State Board of Education (different jurisdiction) - Higher Education institutions (preparation programs) - Local school districts (hiring and evaluation)

Reports To: - Governor (appointments) - Legislature (recommendations, required reports)

Advises: - Superintendent of Public Instruction - Governor on educator issues - Legislature on policy needs

MOSES LAKE CONTEXT

Wahluke School District Representation: Juan Mata serves as school counselor at Morris Schott STEAM Elementary in Wahluke SD and sits on PESB. This gives Grant County area direct representation on the board that controls teacher certification.

Eastern Washington Teachers: Many Moses Lake teachers likely completed preparation programs at: - Central Washington University (CWU) - Ellensburg - Eastern Washington University (EWU) - Cheney - Washington State University (WSU) - Pullman

All three programs are PESB-approved and subject to PESB review.

Teacher Shortage Impact: Grant County experiences teacher shortages. PESB's alternative route programs and recruitment initiatives directly affect Moses Lake's ability to hire qualified teachers.

COMPARISON TO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

ASPECT	STATE BOARD	PESB
Controls	What students learn	Who teaches students
Focus	Graduation requirements	Teacher qualifications
Members Selection	16 (mixed selection) Appointed + Elected	12 (all appointed) All appointed by Governor
Power Over Students	Direct (graduation)	Indirect (through teachers)
Power Over Teachers Moses Lake Input	None Minimal	Direct (certification) One member from region

PUBLIC VISIBILITY ISSUE

Similar to State Board: PESB has significant power but receives minimal public attention.

Why This Matters: - Controls who can teach your children - Sets professional standards - Can end teaching careers - Determines continuing education requirements - Yet operates with little public scrutiny

Unlike Legislature: - No public campaigns - No constituent contact - All members appointed (no elections) - Meetings rarely covered by media - Decisions affect every teacher statewide

PDC RECORDS

All Members: No PDC records expected or found, as: - Members are appointed (not elected) - No campaigns required - No campaign finance involved

KEY STATUTES & RULES

Primary Authority: RCW 28A.410.200-210

Administrative Rules: WAC 181 series

Major WAC Sections: - WAC 181-78A: Teacher preparation programs - WAC 181-79A: Teacher certification - WAC 181-85: Continuing education - WAC 181-87: Code of professional conduct

SOURCES

- PESB official website (pesb.wa.gov)
- Washington State Legislature (RCW, WAC)
- Governor's Boards & Commissions
- Board meeting summaries (2025)

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Date: December 12, 2025

END OF PESB PROFILE

This document is part of the Moses Lake School District transparency project. See also: State Board of Education, Education Committee, Governor Ferguson, OSPI Superintendent Reykdal.