



September 19, 2023

We are so appreciative of the questions regarding teacher licensing fees. HB 403 revises the fee schedule for a person applying for the issuance or renewal of a teacher or specialist certificate. Currently, the annual cost is \$6 per year for five years for teacher and specialist certificates. Superintendent Arntzen is following the intent of HB 403 from Representative Bedey, in order to generate sufficient revenue to administer and maintain the Teach Montana licensure system, including support staff. Keeping the teacher licensing, emergency authorization, and specialist fees at \$6, aids in teacher recruitment and retention.

The average number of teacher license applications (calculated over 5 years):

- Standard teaching licenses (Class 2): 2,426
- Professional teaching licenses (Class 1): 1,332
- Administrator license (Class 3): 369
- Average other specialist licenses (such as counselor, psychologist, CTE): about 350
- New teacher applications each year: 1207
- New administrator application each year: 255

The total annual amount collected, on average, for all current teacher licenses and license application fees is \$251,230. The proposed changes will increase the revenue to meet the demands of the legislation. As noted in a Montana Legislative Fiscal Division report in March 2022, state education agencies across the country have licensing fees that are subsidized in some states and unsubsidized in others, while frequently including a tiered fee structure for teacher and administrative licensing fees. Upon the Superintendent's recommendation to the Board of Public Education (BPE) at its September 2023, meeting, the BPE must make a decision no later than December 1, 2023, per HB 403. The fees will be effective January 1, 2024.

