

Child Protection League (CPL) opposes Rule 8710.0310, DEFINITIONS AND GENERAL RULES FOR TEACHING LICENSES, Subpart 1. Definitions D.

The PELS B proposed Rule defines cultural competency training in a way that overrides the clear intent of the legislature. The language legislators adopted was carefully chosen to allow local districts discretion in teacher training programs. In this case, the PELS B has taken it upon themselves to transform this rule into a politicized mandate.

Legislative language states that cultural competency training means teaching teachers to “interact effectively with people of different cultures, native languages, and socioeconomic backgrounds.”

The PELS B Rule, in contrast, would require the promotion of “self reflection and discussion” on “implicit bias;” “systemic racism;” “gender identity;” “transgender students;” “sexual orientation;” “language diversity.” The Rule also dramatically expands the role of the training to require teachers to “implement” their training with families and the community.

The PELS B cultural competency definition highjacks a new law and converts it from a practical training requirement into a politicized dogma training—a dogma that happens to also be inflammatory and extraordinarily controversial. Many would call it outright dangerous.

Dictating what cultural competency ought to be is not the role of the PELS B. These appointed individuals were not elected by the taxpaying citizens of Minnesota. They are appointed to implement the laws, not to legislate their political persuasions.

The PELS B has a big responsibility and a tight timeline to accomplish its rulemaking task. They have no business and no time to be sidetracked by ideological agendas. It simply undermines the credibility of the Board and the current administration.