



# STATE of MINNESOTA

Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

## NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

### Gift Saloka

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed and commissioned you to have and to hold the office of:

### Teacher

### Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

Effective: March 12, 2025

Expires: January 3, 2028

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed March 7, 2025.

Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz, GOVERNOR

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon, SECRETARY OF STATE



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MAR 7 2025

President of the Senate

Filed March 7, 2025  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State, Steve Simon

Reappointment

# Application for the position Teacher Application Date: 11/11/2024 11:18:10 PM

Note: If your application needs to be amended, including updates to any uploaded documents, contact [open.appointments@state.mn.us](mailto:open.appointments@state.mn.us). Please provide your name, board, position you've applied to, and any other documentation you'd like included in your application along with a brief summary of your request.

## Part I: Position Sought

**Agency Name:** Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board

**Position:** Teacher

**Seat:** Teacher (special education)

## Part II: Applicant Information

**Name:** Dr. Gift Onene Saloka

**Mailing Address:** 815 Golf View Lane Saint Cloud 56301

**County:** Stearns

**Mn House District:** No Answer

**US House District:** No Answer

**Phone:**

**Email:** osaloka@yahoo.com

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** No

## Part III: Appending Documentation

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/msword
Resume	application/vnd.openxmlformats-officedocument.wordprocessingml.document

Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

## Part IV: Optional Statistical Information

**Race and Natural Origin:** African American or Black

**Gender:** Male

**Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin:** No

**Heard about vacancy from:** No Answer

**Political Party:** No Answer (Default)

**Disability:** No

**Veteran:** No Answer

**Age when applied:** No Answer

## Part V: Signature

**Signature:** Gift Saloka

**Date:** 11/11/2024 11:18:10 PM

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# Gift Saloka

815 Golf View Lane #9, St. Cloud, MN 56301  
(651) 399-4233  
osaloka@gmail.com  
<http://oneneesaloka.com>

## Education

### **Saint Mary's University** (Minneapolis, MN)

*Ed.D. – Educational Leadership (2014)*

Special Honors: *Commencement Speaker*

Dissertation Title: *Success First-Generation Hmong College Students' descriptions of their Educational Experiences in Minnesota: A Phenomenological Study*

<http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/dissertation.pdf>

### **Bethel University** (St. Paul, MN)

M.S. – Special Education (2009)

Thesis: *The Effect of Parent Involvement on Student Achievement*

### **University of New York** (New York, NY)

B.S. – Business Economics (1986)

## Professional Experience

### **Independent School District** (IS742, St. Cloud, MN)

*Special Education Teacher*

02/2017 – Present

- Develop and implement individualized program for each special education student .
- Identify and implement goals tailored to the individual student 's needs and abilities.
- Modeled, trained, and consulted teachers on modifications to instructional materials ensuring the diverse needs of every student are successfully realized .
- Actively supported teaching professionals on effective work strategies with Special Needs Students , maintaining strong focus on person centeredness .
- Employed diverse techniques to promote active learning including individualized instruction, problem solving assignments, and small group work.
- Exercised flexibility within the classroom addressing students ' needs through special accommodations.
- Actively involved in students ' behavioral, social, and academic development, aiding students in developing emotionally, feeling comfortable in social situation, and awareness of socially acceptable behavior.

### **PELSB MN 2022 – Present**

*Duties*

- Licensing teachers, including related services providers, in Minnesota,
- Establishing and maintaining teacher licensure standards and requirements,
- Establishing and enforcing the Teacher Code of Ethics,
- Approving and overseeing teacher preparation providers and programs to prepare candidates for licensure in Minnesota, and
- Administering the Teacher Mentorship and Retention of Effective Teachers Grant and the Collaborative Urban and Greater Minnesota Educators of Color (CUGMEC) Grant.

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The Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board conducts audits that evaluates whether and how approved teacher training programs for candidates for the following licensure areas meet subject matter standards for reading:

- (1) early childhood education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.3000;
- (2) elementary education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.3200; and
- (3) special education in accordance with Minnesota Rules, part 8710.5000.

**Northwest Technical College-Distance Minnesota** (Consortium of Colleges, Perham, MN)

*MnSCU Academic Professional 1*

05/2016 – 02/2017

- Provide advice about program planning, degree planning, course selections, course/academic performance and scheduling, graduation requirements, degree audits, transfer articulations, and transfer evaluations to 231 students .
- Perform outreach activities (i.e., recruit, attend college fairs, etc).
- Implement (or carry out) advising processes, related resources, and special projects aimed toward developing and maintaining working relationships with assigned advisees to maximize student achievement, retention, persistence, and educational goal attainment.
- Experience working with college or pre-college students with an emphasis on student development.
- Experience using CRM software.
- Experience in analyzing and using quantitative and qualitative data.
- Skills in using information access and advising tools common to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (e.g., iSEEK, GPS Life Plan, eServices, D2L, College Search, Transferology, My Military GPS Life Plan, Veterans Education Transfer System, My Military Education, LinkVet, etc.) sufficient to identify and recommend information, resources and services relevant to address the information and advising needs of students, veterans and other interested parties.

**Macalester College** (St. Paul, MN)

*Card Service Functional Manager / Student Affairs*

01/2008 – 06/2016

- Manage card services operations including deployment, policy development, operational management and ongoing product development.
- Work with internal departments, including providing needed training, to ensure program success.
- Negotiate, administer and maintain agreements with external vendors ensuring favorable partnerships.
- Provide technical, system and equipment expertise to all stakeholders.
- Directly supervise and assume responsibility for training, planning, assigning and directing the work of up to six employees.
- Assist with research, funding, and implementation of keyless entry systems and other innovative services.
- Assist in planning and executing Residential life, Campus Life, and Campus Center programming.

**Hastings High School** (Hastings, MN)

*Intern – Assistant Principal*

Summer 2010

- Served in classroom during literacy instruction
- Helped teachers develop professional learning community (PLC)
- Supervised academic and administrative tasks
- Worked on curriculum, order textbooks and supplies, and prepare student schedules
- Coordinated support services such as cafeteria, transportation and custodial services
- Organized and facilitated teachers' meetings

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● **Cultural Competency: Leadership Inventory**

*Leadership Conference, St. Cloud University - April 16, 2015*

[http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/cultural\\_competency.pdf](http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/cultural_competency.pdf)

● **Beyond Theory: Creating Culturally Relevant Mentoring Programs for the Non-native Born**

*Mentoring Conference, University of New Mexico - October 20, 2015*

● <http://oneneesaloka.com/docs/Mentoring-NM-Final-8-11-15.pdf>

● **Hmong Educational Experiences in Minnesota**

*Dissertation, St. Mary's University - October 8, 2014*

● **Nigeria: Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act**

*Global Citizenship, Macalester College - February 11, 2014*

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- ◆ American Educational Studies Association
- ◆ American Educational Research Association
- ◆ Philosophy of Education Society
- ◆ American Evaluation Association
- ◆ Minnesota Evaluation Association
- ◆ MEA Racial Equity Advocate (REA) Cohort

- ◆ STMA District Advisory Committee
- ◆ Macalester Staff Development & Training Committee
- ◆ Macalester College Grant Committee
- ◆ Minnesota Special Education Taskforce 2021 - 2023
- ◆ the NEA IDEA Resource Cadre 2022 – 2023
- ◆ Member PELSB 2022 – Present

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✉ osaloka@yahoo.com

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am writing this letter to re-apply for the seat Teacher (special education) which I currently hold. I am very excited about the opportunity to continue my work with PELSB as a member. As a current Board member, I garnered valuable insight into the work of PELSB. It takes a year or two to really understand the work, and allowing me another opportunity to server for another term would be beneficial to the board and to me. Keeping me on the PELSB will help strengthen the continuity of PELSB work.

Crucial to my success in these positio ns has been my ability to thrive in an environment where decision-making, self-motivation, and excellent communication skills are held at a premium. I truly believe that my skills, experience, and character will enable me to effective and efficient.

I sincerely thank you for your consideration of me for this exciting opportunity.

Sincerely,

Gift Saloka

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