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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**Prepared by:** Katie Bender-Olson, Senior Staff Attorney

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**2019 Wisconsin Act 44**  
[2019 Assembly Bill 194]

**Special Education Licensure  
Requirements**

### 2019 WISCONSIN ACT 44

2019 Wisconsin Act 44 creates an alternative to the requirement that an applicant for an initial special education teaching license must pass the Foundations of Reading Test (FORT). Under the act, a person may instead complete a course of study that satisfies the following requirements:

1. The course of study provides rigorous instruction in the teaching of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency.
2. A student in the course of study receives feedback and coaching from an individual who is an expert of reading instruction.
3. A student in the course of study demonstrates competence in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and fluency by providing a portfolio of work.

The Department of Public Instruction must waive the requirement to pass the FORT if an applicant for an initial special education teaching license demonstrates to the satisfaction of the agency that he or she successfully completed such a course.

**Effective date:** November 23, 2019

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