

## Chapter PI 6

## PUBLIC LIBRARIES

PI 6.03	Public librarian certification	PI 6.06	Further provisional certification
PI 6.05	Organizational requirements for provisional certification of public library systems		requirements for public library systems

**PI 6.03 Public librarian certification. (1) In this section:**

(a) "Administrator" means the head librarian or other person appointed by a library board under s. 43.58 (4), Stats., or by a library system board under s. 43.17 (4), Stats., to direct and administer the library or system.

(b) "Municipality" shall have the meaning set forth in s. 43.001 (4), Stats., and shall include a public library system established under s. 43.19 or 43.21, Stats.

(2) Administrators employed by a public library system, county library system or any municipal public library except in a city of the first class supported in whole or in part by public funds, shall hold certification as described in this section. The certification level for other individuals on the library staff may be determined by each individual library board. Applications for librarian certificates under this section shall be made in writing to the division.

(3) The following requirements and grades of certification are established:

(a) *Grade I.* Administrators of public libraries in municipalities with a population of 8,000 or more and administrators of public library systems and county library systems shall hold grade I certificates. Grade I certificates shall be granted to applicants holding both a Bachelor's degree from a college or university approved by an accrediting association of more than statewide standing and a fifth year degree from a library school program accredited by the American library association. An applicant holding a fifth year degree from an unaccredited library school program may be granted a grade I certificate if the division is satisfied that the program leading to that degree is substantially equivalent and the applicant's professional experience is demonstrative of the ability to provide professional library services.

(b) *Grade II.* Administrators of public libraries in municipalities with a population of between 4,000 and 7,999 persons shall hold at least grade II certificates. Grade II certificates shall be granted to applicants holding a bachelor's degree from a college or university approved by an accrediting association of more than statewide standing, including or supplemented by successfully completed courses in public library administration, selection of all types of library materials, organization of library materials and reference and information services.

(c) *Grade III.* Administrators of public libraries in municipalities with a population of between 2,000 and 3,999 persons shall hold at least

grade III certificates. Grade III certificates shall be granted to applicants having successfully completed 2 years of study in a college or technical institution with courses in liberal arts and science or equivalent and the university extension directed home-study course: library management for public librarians or equivalent coursework approved by the division.

(d) *Grade IV.* Effective January 1, 1982, administrators of public libraries in municipalities with a population under 2,000 persons shall hold at least grade IV certificates. Grade IV certificates shall be granted to applicants who hold a high school diploma or equivalent and have successfully completed the university of Wisconsin extension directed home-study course: basic library management for public librarians or equivalent coursework approved by the division.

(4) All certificates shall be granted for 5-year periods. Certificates granted under previous certification rules shall continue to be valid.

(5) Certificates may be renewed upon evidence which satisfies the division that the holder has participated in continuing education in librarianship which is either directly related to the position held or will permit advancement in the profession. In system areas the applicable public library system, and in non-system areas the municipal library shall assist in determination of requirements for continuing education and validate records submitted evidencing a renewal applicant's participation in continuing education under this subsection.

(6) If the division finds that a library board subject to this section is unable to secure a librarian who holds the requisite certification, the division may grant a permit to employ a person without the required certificate for a period not exceeding one year and such permit, in case of emergency, may be renewed for a period of one year upon a showing that the individual employed under that permit has made substantial progress toward compliance with the educational prerequisites for the applicable grade of certification.

**History:** Emerg. cr. eff. 1-26-72; r. emerg. rule and cr. Register, April, 1972, No. 196, eff. 5-1-72; am. (2), Register, August, 1973, No. 212, eff. 9-1-73; r. and recr., Register, April, 1979, No. 280, eff. 5-1-79.

**PI 6.05 Organizational requirements for provisional certification of public library systems.** (1) Any existing county or multicounty public library service program operating under Wisconsin library statutes may qualify for provisional certification as a public library system, provided that:

(a) The proposed public library system area meets the standards for population set in s. 43.15 (1), Stats.;

(b) The present governing board of the public library service by resolution agrees to reconstitute within 9 months after the system's provisional certification its method of appointment and membership to comply with s. 43.19 or 43.21, Stats., or if there is currently no such governing board, the county or counties concerned agree by resolution to appoint a legally constituted public library system board within 4 months of the system's provisional certification; except that any county having a population of 500,000 or more is not required to form such board, under s. 43.19 (3), Stats., and

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(c) The county or counties included in the proposed system area will have appointed county library planning committees; or, in the case of