



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

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TO: Assembly Committee on Education
FROM: Representative Dean Knudson and Senator Luther Olsen
DATE: Wednesday, February 10, 2016
SUBJECT: Testimony for Assembly Bill 696

Thank you Chairman Thiesfeldt and members of the Assembly Committee on Education for holding a hearing and allowing us to testify in support of Assembly Bill 696.

Currently, we allow an initial teaching license to be granted to a person who has successfully completed a teacher education program that is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). In order to be eligible for this initial license you must:

1. Possess a bachelor's degree.
2. Successfully complete a teacher education program accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.
3. Successfully complete an introductory course in special education for which the individual earned at least 3 postsecondary credits.
4. Have earned a passing score on any standardized examinations required by the state superintendent.

The goal for this law was to allow people who have a 4-year degree and have attended a rigorous Montessori teacher education program to be licensed to teach at a school that uses the Montessori method as its primary method of instruction. Most programs that teach Montessori Teacher Education are accredited by MACTE. However, a few programs are approved by the Association Montessori International (AMI) rather than the MACTE.

Assembly Bill 696 modifies the second requirement in current law to allow for teachers who receive training approved by AMI to also be eligible for the Montessori license. Modifying this law would help correct the shortage of Montessori-trained educators that has impacted many schools, such as the Isthmus Montessori Academy here in Madison.

Thank you, members. We ask for your support and would be more than happy to answer any questions.