



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 206
[2017 Senate Bill 711]

**Grants for Pursuing
Qualifications to Teach
Dual Enrollment Courses**

PILOT GRANT PROGRAM FOR DUAL ENROLLMENT TEACHING CREDENTIALS

2017 Wisconsin Act 206 creates a grant program to assist high school teachers to meet the minimum qualification requirements of the Higher Learning Commission for eligibility to teach dual enrollment courses. Dual enrollment courses are courses that provide students both high school credit and credit at a technical college, a private college, a two-year University of Wisconsin (UW) campus, or a four-year UW institution. The grants cover tuition expenses for courses teachers take to meet these qualification requirements.

The Act appropriates \$500,000 to the program, which sunsets in 2021. The program is to be administered by the Higher Educational Aids Board. The Board must award at least one grant per school year to each of the following:

- A school district with under 650 students.
- A school district with 650 to 1,600 students.
- A school district with more than 1,600 students.
- A charter school established under s. 118.40 (2r), Stats.
- A private school participating in a parental choice program.

LIFETIME TEACHER LICENSES

The Act also makes changes to the lifetime educator license law created in the 2017-19 Biennial Budget Act, 2017 Wisconsin Act 59.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

Prior Law

The budget included language creating a lifetime license for educators (teachers, administrators, and pupil service professionals) who held a professional or master educator license at the time of enactment. Educators who held an initial license at the time of enactment could apply for a lifetime license after completing six semesters of successful teaching experience. The teaching experience and ongoing employment requirements to obtain or maintain the lifetime license after the effective date (September 23, 2017) assumed experience and employment in a public school district. Experience and employment teaching in private schools would not qualify.

The Act

The Act removes the language requiring experience and employment in a public school district, and instead requires experience and employment in education, as defined by the Department of Public Instruction by rule.

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JO:mcm;jal