

Report From Agency

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

In the matter of rulemaking to update the Wisconsin Administrative Code
Chapter PI 34 for EDUCATOR LICENSES

Clearinghouse Rule No. 25-007: The out-of-state pathway for educator license

REPORT TO LEGISLATURE

I. Basis and Purpose of the Proposed Rule

The objective of the proposed rule is to amend ch. PI 34 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, specifically as it relates to the requirements for the out-of-state pathway for educator licensure. Under current rule, to receive a license under this subsection, the applicant must complete an out-of-state educator preparation program which is approved by the state education agency of the state in which it is located, and is comparable to an approved program, including student teaching experience. Approved educator preparation programs in other states include pedagogical content knowledge requirements. Additionally, applicants must receive institutional endorsement from the preparation program, demonstrate content knowledge by meeting the content knowledge assessment requirements under s. PI 34.021 (1) (c), and meet the pedagogical knowledge as required under s. PI 34.021 (1) (d).

The proposed rule provides options for verifying content knowledge, eliminates additional pedagogical knowledge requirements for out-of-state applicants to receive a license and clarifies the requirements for out-of-state applicants to progress their license. The proposed rule specifies certain requirements for student teaching and practicum experiences in order for the out-of-state program to be comparable to a Wisconsin-approved program, including a requirement that out-of-state applicants for a teaching license complete a student teaching experience that meets the requirements under s. PI 34.023 (2) (a) through (f), and that out-of-state applicants for a pupil services or administrator license complete a practicum experience that meets the requirements under s. PI 34.023 (3) (a).

Additionally, under the proposed rule, the applicant can demonstrate subject expertise by obtaining a passing score on a required content knowledge exam if one exists in their state, otherwise, a Wisconsin-approved exam may be utilized or a minimum 3.0 GPA in relevant coursework.

The proposed rule also delineates the degree requirements to obtain this license and specifies that applicants must fulfill the statutory requirements referenced in s. PI 34.022.

Finally, the proposed rule does not apply to those who are eligible for a license through reciprocity under PI 34.040 (2) (n).

II. Public Hearing Summary

The hearing notice was published in the February 17, 2025, edition of the Wisconsin Administrative Register. A public hearing was held on March 7, 2025. No persons testified at the hearing or provided written testimony.

III. Summary of Public Comments to the Proposed Rule and the Agency’s Response to those Comments

No comments were received.

IV. Changes to the Rule Summary or Fiscal Estimate/Economic Impact Analysis

Rule Summary:

No changes were made.

Fiscal Estimate/Economic Impact Analysis:

No changes were made.

V. Department Response to Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse Report:

2. Form, Style and Placement in Administrative Code:

The changes are accepted.

4. Adequacy of References to Related Statutes, Rules and Forms:

There is a list of approved tests on the DPI website at <https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/licensing/pdf/out-of-state-testing-guidance.pdf>. In the event a different test or tests are needed, or a test is regenerated by the testing company, the proposed test is reviewed, summarized and sent to the superintendent for approval along with the testing company’s statistical report and recommended cut score. No changes are made to the proposed rule.

5. Clarity, Grammar, Punctuation and Plainness:

- a. The term “comparable” was used prior to the implementation of this rule change; however, the department continues to apply its standard dictionary definition. All states maintain an approval process for Educator Preparation Program (EPP) requirements. The specific areas the department evaluates for comparability are outlined in greater detail in other sections of the rule. Generally, the department deems an EPP from another state to be comparable if it is approved by that state’s education agency, including its student teaching component.
- b. The items listed in PI 34.022 are statutory licensing requirements. They appear in the EPP program approval section of the rule because all students must meet these requirements to be eligible for licensure before an EPP can recommend them to the department upon program completion. Although these requirements are compiled in PI 34 for convenience, they are frequently cited throughout the chapter. Referencing them in the out-of-state pathway does not imply that the department is imposing EPP program requirements on that pathway; rather, the department is applying the statutory licensing requirements that must be satisfied before a license can be issued. In response to this comment, the department proposes adding the word “licensing” before “requirements” in s. PI 34.022 (intro.).

- c. The requirements in s. PI 34.022 apply to all educator licenses unless otherwise specified (e.g. s. PI 34.022 (1)). Section PI 34.022 (1) is about cooperatives and applies only to licenses in agriculture, economics, and social studies.
- d. The proposed rule has been revised to clarify that an individual must hold a Tier II teaching license in order to apply for a supplemental license. The department has updated the language accordingly. Additional clarification was added to specify that an individual may either obtain a Tier II teaching license before applying for a supplemental area license or submit both applications at the same time. In cases where both applications are submitted concurrently, the department will process the Tier II teaching license application first.
- e. The proposed rule has been reviewed and verb tenses corrected. The phrase “must meet” has been changed.