

## TEACHING IN AN ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Who can teach in an alternative education program?

Wisconsin statutes [§115.28 (7) (a), 118.19, and 118.21, Stats.] and administrative code [PI 8.01 (2) (a)] require school districts to employ appropriately licensed and certified staff. Specific requirements for alternative education teacher licensure are specified under PI 34.33 (2):

(a) Any person employed in an alternative education program shall hold an appropriate license issued by the department or an alternative education program license.

(b) An appropriate license held by a person employed in an alternative education program shall be in the grade level or subject which he or she is teaching except as follows:

1. A person holding a regular elementary education license may teach the basic skills of reading, language arts, and mathematics to secondary students for high school credit if the grade level of the curriculum taught does not exceed the grade level of the teacher's license.
2. A person holding a regular license to teach may teach outside his or her area of licensing if the instruction is in collaboration with a properly licensed teacher. Under this paragraph, a properly licensed teacher shall be licensed at the grade level and in the subject area being taught and shall diagnose the pupils' educational needs, prescribe teaching and learning procedures, and evaluate the effects of the instruction.

(c) 1. Except as specified in subd. 2., an applicant for an alternative education program license shall possess a license to teach and shall receive an endorsement from a Wisconsin approved program verifying the applicant has met the competencies specified in PI 34.02. An alternative education program license may be issued for a period of 5 years and allows the holder to teach any subject specified under PI 8.01 (2) (L) 3 and 18.03 in grades 6-12 if the holder volunteers for that assignment.

Administrative code section PI 8.01 (2) (L) 3, pertains to licensure in grades 5 to 8 for reading, language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, health, art and music. PI 8.03 pertains to high school English, social studies, mathematics, science, physical education, and health. Teacher aides in alternative education programs must be supervised by appropriately licensed staff.

More simply stated:

1. The person teaches what they are licensed to teach. The person is licensed to teach high school math, teaches high school math.
2. The person is licensed to teach high school math but the district also wants to the person to teach high school English, so the person must teach English in collaboration with a properly licensed English teacher.
3. The person has an alternative education license and may teach anything s/he volunteers to teach in an alternative education program for grades 6-12.

For a special education teacher to teach regular education students the teacher must fit in one of 1 through 3 above. So a special education licensed teacher who also has a math license, may teach math, but may not teach English.

GEDO #2 is an alternative education program, so all of the above applies.

1. The person must be licensed in each of the subject areas (math, science, social studies, English, health, etc.), or
2. Teach in collaboration with licensed teachers in those core subjects, or
3. Have the alternative education certification.

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