



State of Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

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To: District Administrators, Elementary School Principals, and Interested Others

From: Laurie Derse, Teacher Education and Licensing Consultant
Merry Larsen, School Administration Consultant
Jill Haglund, Early Childhood Consultant

Subject: Clarification of the Licensing and Transportation Requirement for Four-Year-Old Kindergarten

In February 2002, the Department of Public Instruction disseminated the Policy and Information Advisory 02.1. regarding four-year-old kindergarten. Since that time, there have been several questions seeking clarification related to the applicable teacher licenses and the requirement for districts to provide transportation for four-year-old kindergarten. This letter is to restate the answers to questions 10 and 13 accordingly:

10. What license must a teacher have?"

Teachers in four-year-old kindergarten must hold a prekindergarten or kindergarten license (e.g., #080, prekindergarten; #090, PK-K; #083, PK-3; #100, kindergarten, etc.), preferably the prekindergarten or prekindergarten-grade 3 (#083). With the emphasis on inclusion of children with disabilities in regular education programs, many districts will be interested in teachers who hold dual certification in early childhood regularly education and early childhood special education (#808 or #809). Persons completing early childhood level programs after 8-31-2004 will be issued a license as Early Childhood Level (birth through age 8) teachers under new rules in Chapter PI 34.

13. Must transportation be provided for four-year-old kindergarten?

According to Wisconsin law, a pupil attending a public elementary or secondary school, including four- and five-year-old kindergarten, is entitled to transportation by the public school district in which the pupil resides if the pupil resides two or more miles from the nearest public school the pupil is entitled to attend. Because transportation "to and from school" is required, the school district is responsible for transportation to and from half-day kindergarten programs as well as full-day kindergarten programs. That is one reason coordination and co-location of four-year-old kindergarten with child care makes sense.

We hope this clarifies any confusion related to this question and answer.

For specific information on teacher licenses contact Laurie Derse, Consultant, 608-266-2386 or laurie.derse@dpi.state.wi.us. For specific information on transportation contact Merry Larsen, School Administration Consultant, 608-266-2146 or merry.larsen@dpi.state.wi.us. For more information on four-year-old kindergarten contact Jill Haglund, Early Childhood Consultant, 608-267-9625 or jill.haglund@dpi.state.wi.us.