

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rules hearing scheduled Jan. 30 on license flexibility changes

MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction will conduct a hearing in January to accept public testimony on proposed permanent rules that add flexibility to educator licensing to help public school districts meet staffing shortages.

The Jan. 30 hearing will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m. at the DPI's headquarters, GEF 3, Room P41, 125 South Webster Street, Madison. For those who cannot attend the hearing, written comments sent to the department will be given the same consideration as public testimony.

The proposed rules will expand and make permanent the changes that were adopted in emergency rules last fall to make teacher licensing more flexible. Specifically the proposed permanent rules

- allow Wisconsin educators who are age 55 or older to apply for a five-year, nonrenewable license without having to meet professional development requirements,
- increase the number of consecutive days that a short-term substitute can be in the same assignment from 20 to 45 days,
- expand the renewal options for emergency licenses, and
- expand the pathway for teachers to add additional licenses based on content tests.

The hearing site is fully accessible to people with disabilities. Those who cannot attend the public hearing may provide written comments. Send comments on the proposed permanent rules via U.S. mail or e-mail to the addresses below no later than Feb. 9.

A copy of the proposed permanent rules and the fiscal estimate are available at <http://dpi.wi.gov/policy-budget/administrative-rules>. Copies of these materials can be requested and written comments submitted by sending an e-mail to adminrules@dpi.wi.gov or by writing to Carl Bryan, budget and policy analyst and administrative rules coordinator, DPI, 125 South Webster Street, P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841.

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NOTE: This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/news-release/dpinr2017_05.pdf.