



Indiana Department of Education 2019 Legislative Priority

Ensure Indiana's reciprocity statutes create more opportunities for educators to teach in the Hoosier state

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) will support legislation creating more opportunities for out-of-state teaching professionals to work in the Hoosier state. Teacher license reciprocity allows candidates who hold an out-of-state license to earn a license in a receiving state, subject to meeting state-specific requirements. Allowing out-of-state teachers who have lifetime teaching licenses to teach in Indiana or come out of retirement allows schools to remain student-focused by providing more hiring options.

This comes at a time when Indiana is considering state teacher exams. In October 2018, IDOE issued a Request for Proposal to develop a more modernized licensing examination to assess our teachers' classroom preparedness. The 2018 legislative session initiated the conversation regarding the relevance of a national teacher exam as part of a broader discussion concerning teacher shortages. Responding to the teacher shortage is a complex problem. IDOE is exploring all options.

Quick Facts

- ❑ In 2017, 23% of school corporations reported using substitute teachers to fill full-time teaching positions.
- ❑ In 2018, Indiana State University surveyed Indiana superintendents and found 91% experienced a teacher shortage in fall 2018.
- ❑ Indiana does not have full reciprocity by statute for out-of-state teachers. This limits districts' abilities to attract qualified, licensed teachers to fill vacant teaching positions in the state.
- ❑ Currently some out-of-state applicants are granted initial or full licensure. However, several candidates in high-demand, hard-to-find content areas are required to take additional coursework.
- ❑ Full reciprocity agreements allow states to work through variations in licensing systems to coordinate license transfers and fill vacant teaching positions with qualified candidates.
- ❑ Between July 2017 and June 2018, IDOE issued 676 emergency permits for STEM and CTE fields.