

MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents and Principals

From: Dr. Andrew Melin, Chief Innovation Officer
Ms. Risa Regnier, Director of Educator Licensing

Date: May 24, 2019

Re: Senate Enrolled Act 438 - Workplace Specialist I Work Hours for Eligibility (1 of 3)

Background:

Workplace Specialist I (WSI) licensure eligibility requires industry work hours in the specific career and technical occupational area the candidate desires to teach. SEA 438 reduces the number of industry work hours required for one of eligibility options for an initial Workplace Specialist I license and sets a minimum eligibility age of 21 years.

Guidance:

This legislative language makes two changes from the current WSI eligibility options found in the State Board of Education educator licensing rules known as REPA3. The first change is a reduction in the number of industry/occupational work hours required if the candidate is qualifying for a WSI license through work experience alone. The current requirement is 6,000 clock hours of work experience within the last five years in the occupational area in which the candidate intends to teach. SEA 438 reduces the amount of work experience required to 5,000 clock hours within the last five years. This change is effective July 1, 2019.

The second change made in SEA 438 sets a minimum age requirement for WSI license eligibility of 21 years. This age requirement also becomes effective July 1, 2019.

The remaining three WSI eligibility options, which require 4,000 clock hours of occupational experience within the last 10 years in combination with industry occupational competency exams, higher education degrees, or apprenticeships/internships that are a regular part of the training for the specific occupation remain unchanged. The requirements for maintaining the WS licensure, including moving from a WSI to a WSII and subsequent license renewals also remain unchanged. Those requirements can be found at 511 IAC 17 and on IDOE's website at <https://www.doe.in.gov/licensing/workplace-specialist>.

(continued)

Here is the specific language from SEA 438 for reference:

IC 20-28-5-22.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019]: Sec. 22.5. To be eligible for a workplace specialist license, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- (1) Hold a high school diploma and be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- (2) Be accepted for employment as a workplace specialist teacher in a recognized content area listed on the workplace specialist license by at least one (1) of the following:
 - (A) An Indiana school corporation.
 - (B) A cooperating school corporation for career and technical education organized under IC 20-37-1-1.
 - (C) An accredited education program offered by the department of correction.
- (3) Complete the application process required by the department.
- (4) Provide documentation that the applicant meets at least one (1) of the following criteria:
 - (A) The applicant has, within the immediately preceding five (5) years, at least five thousand (5,000) clock hours of documented occupational experience in the specific career and technical occupational area in which the applicant intends to teach.
 - (B) The applicant has:
 - (i) within the immediately preceding ten (10) years, at least four thousand (4,000) clock hours of documented occupational experience in the specific career and technical occupational area in which the applicant intends to teach; and
 - (ii) completed a state approved occupational competency exam in the career and technical occupational area in which the applicant intends to teach, an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degree from a postsecondary educational institution in the career and technical occupational area in which the applicant intends to teach, or an approved apprenticeship or internship program that is a regular part of the training for the career and technical occupational area in which the applicant intends to teach.

If you have any questions, please contact Risa Regnier at (317) 232-0501 or e-mail her at regnier@doe.in.gov or Stefany Deckard at (317) 234-0210 or her e-mail at stdeckard1@doe.in.gov.

This bill was authored by Senator Andy Zay and full bill text can be found [here](#). Information regarding how to contact your legislators can be found [here](#).