



Indiana Department of Education 2019 Legislative Priority

Increase licensing flexibility for Career Specialist and Workplace Specialist

The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) is committed to pursuing opportunities to attract teachers into the classroom. Two licenses, Workplace Specialist and Career Specialist, allow those who have occupational work experience in a particular field to enter the teaching profession and educate children based upon their occupational training and experience.

By reducing the number of occupational work hours required for each license, IDOE hopes to attract more qualified individuals to teach in areas such as science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), career and technical education (CTE), and other areas experiencing shortages.

Quick Facts

- ❑ Workplace Specialist I Licenses currently require:
 - ❑ High school diploma, and 6,000 hours documented occupational work experience in the last five years; or
 - ❑ High school diploma, 4,000 hours documented occupational work experience in the last 10 years, and completion of an associate's degree in the area to be taught, completion of a state-approved competency exam in the occupational area, or completion of an approved apprenticeship or internship for the occupational area. (see 511 IAC 17)

- ❑ Initial Career Specialist License currently requires:
 - ❑ Bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in content area applicant intends to teach, successful completion of area content exam, and 6,000 hours of documented occupational experience related to the desired license area in the last five years; or
 - ❑ Bachelor's degree with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in content area applicant intends to teach and 10,000 hours of documented occupational work experience in the last seven years; or
 - ❑ High school diploma, passage of the required licensure test in the content area applicant intends to teach and 10,000 hours of documented occupational work experience in the last seven years. (see IC 20-28-5-21)

- ❑ For perspective, 2,000 hours is approximately one year full-time work experience.

- ❑ In 2017-2018, ten (10) initial Career Specialist permits were issued to bring sector specialists into the classroom to teach technical fields. In order to maintain and build current student opportunities, this number must increase.

- ❑ In 2017-2018, IDOE issued 231 Workplace Specialist I licenses.

- ❑ In 2017-2018, IDOE issued 676 emergency permits for STEM and CTE fields; thus, reflecting a shortage.