

Rules

Appropriate Employment for Those Holding Elementary or Middle School Generalist Licenses

In memos dated 10/28/04 and 11/13/06 Commissioner David Driscoll clarified Department of Education policies regarding appropriate employment for those holding elementary or middle school generalist licenses. Those memos can be read at: http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=2134 (middle school) http://www.doe.mass.edu/news/news.asp?id=3167 (elementary)

Summary

Briefly stated, those who hold elementary or middle school generalist licenses

- may teach or team teach two or more subject areas;
- may not have a teaching assignment that covers a single subject area where there is a more appropriate license.

See the Commissioner's memos for a more detailed explanation.

Deadlines

The middle school generalist clarification was issued first and the deadline for complying was September 2006.

The more recently issued elementary clarification directs compliance by the 2008/2009 school year (no waiver is needed prior to 9/08).

Definition of "Subject"

At the time of the middle school clarification MTA had a series of conversations on this matter with the Commissioner. He assured us that in determining whether one's teaching assignment conforms with DOE policies, "subject" is intended to be broadly defined. For instance, study skills or enrichment classes that are part of one's teaching assignment are considered subjects.

K-8 Licenses

K-8 licenses were last issued as a new license in 1982.

Since that time they have been (and continue to be) an appropriate license to teach a single subject, more than one subject, or all subjects in K-8 self-contained classrooms (with the exception of "special" subjects such as music, art, reading, PE, SPED).

When holders recertified in 1999 they received either (1) another K-8 license, **or** (2) if they "swapped," they should have received K-8, 1-6 and 5-9 "generalist" teacher licenses.



Self-Study Middle School and Elementary Generalist *Licenses*

(This information is <u>not</u> designed to determine Highly Qualified Status or to resolve unrelated licensing issues.)

Part I – Personal Data

| 1. | Which of the following generalist licenses do you hold? (Verify using your license (white card) from DOE. Check any/all that apply.) |
|-------------|---|
| | Elementary 1-6 Elementary K-6 Middle School Teacher 5-9 Middle School Teacher 5-8 |
| 2. | I hold an <i>active</i> K-8 generalist license (renewed/recertified 2004 or later). |
| 3. | I hold an <i>inactive</i> K-8 generalist license (did not renew 2004 or later). |
| The l | icenses listed in Items 1-3 above are considered "generalist" licenses. |
| • If you | You should be working under a license appropriate to the field/grade level(s) you are teaching; You do not need to proceed with this worksheet. u hold and are employed under any of the licenses listed in Item 1 only, you |
| | be teaching at least two subjects. (See <i>Rules</i> for definition of "subject") If that e case, |
| | You do not need to proceed with this worksheet. |
| 4. | Are you currently teaching a single subject? YES NO |
| | O, you do not need to proceed with this worksheet. CS, determine which of the following applies: |
| You l | hold an <u>active</u> K-8 generalist license. You are appropriately licensed to teach: |

- all subjects in a self-contained classroom, or
- two or more subjects, or
- a single subject.

You do not need to proceed with this worksheet.



You hold an inactive K-8 license. You must

- Renew (recertify) this license in order to be employed to teach a single subject at grades K-8, or
- Add a license appropriate to your field and grade level(s) (when there is a more appropriate license.)*

You hold any of the licenses listed in Item 1. You must:

- Seek reassignment teaching at least two subjects (at the grade levels covered by your license); or
- Add a license appropriate to your field and grade level(s) (when there is a more appropriate license.)*

Part II – Adding Licenses

Adding licenses in a new field or at new grade levels requires that the applicant take and pass any appropriate licensure tests (Massachusetts Test for Educator Licensure, MTEL). This information can be found at http://www.doe.mass.edu/mtel/testrequire.html. There may be other requirements, as well. The regulations which govern adding licenses (603 CMR 7.14 (2)) are at http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr7.html?section=14.

*The following licenses are currently available for elementary and middle school teachers.

| | License Name | Grade Levels |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| 1. | Early ChildhoodTeacher | PreK-2 |
| 2. | Elementary Teacher | 1-6 |
| 3. | English | 5-8 |
| 4. | General Science | 5-8 |
| 5. | General Science | 1-6 |
| 6. | History | 1-6 |
| 7. | History | 5-8 |
| 8. | Math | 5-8 |
| 9. | Math | 1-6 |
| 10. | Middle School Humanities | 5-8 |
| 11. | Middle School Math/Science | 5-8 |
| 12. | Political Science/Political Philosophy | 5-8 |

Note: this list does not include special education or special areas such as art, music, reading or physical education. These licenses are, of course, available. We have not included them because they are not subjects appropriately taught by either generalists or those holding the classroom licenses listed above.

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