

## VII. Endorsement of Teaching Certificates

*General information regarding certification procedures is available on ISBE's Educator Certification Web site at <http://www.isbe.net/certification>.*

### Endorsements

An endorsement is a statement appearing on a certificate that identifies the specific subjects or grade levels that the certificate holder is authorized to teach.

Illinois Elementary and Secondary certificates must be endorsed at the time of issuance in all subjects for which the holder meets applicable requirements.

- These endorsements indicate the subjects that the teacher is qualified to teach and may be issued at various grade levels.
- Teachers are not required to be endorsed in every subject for which they are qualified, and **they may continue to be placed in assignments where they met previous requirements for the subject, provided the requirements were in effect at the time the teacher met the requirements and held the required certificate.**
- Special certificates must be endorsed for the grade level of the certificate upon issuance in the area of specialization, but may also have endorsements added at other grade levels.

### Subsequent Endorsements

Universities may award subsequent endorsements in a manner similar to when they recommend issuance of an initial teaching, school service personnel, or administrative certificate.

Applicants may also apply for subsequent endorsements by submitting ISBE Form 73-52 either online through ECS or through their Regional Office of Education.

### Adding Endorsements to a Certificate

Choose one of the following procedures to apply:

- Contact an Illinois institution and have the endorsement issued on-line through entitlement.
- Complete ISBE Form 73-52, file the application and \$30 cashier's check with one's regional superintendent of schools, and attach official transcripts in the sealed envelope as they were received from the college or university.
- Apply on-line through ECS and pay \$30 cashier's check with credit card. Request that colleges and universities submit all official transcripts directly to ISBE.

The applicant may apply for **one** endorsement subject/grade level for **each** endorsement application and may confirm issuance of the additional endorsement by checking the ECS account. Each applicant who does not qualify for issuance of an endorsement will receive a deficiency letter indicating what

requirements must be met in order to have the endorsement issued. The endorsement evaluation deficiency letter is valid for one calendar year.

Endorsement applications for Self-Contained General Education , Reading Specialist, and Reading Teacher (if recommended by an institution with a Reading Specialist program), will require the signature of the certification officer and the institution's official seal.

#### **Endorsement Requirements at the Secondary Level (9-12)**

Endorsements are designed to meet the NCLB requirements for all core academic subjects. However, **secondary endorsement requirements do not meet the NCLB requirements for highly qualified teachers unless a test or major area of concentration was completed.**

The applicant must meet one of the following requirements:

- Have a major in the content area, either indicated on the transcript or demonstrated by having a total of 32 semester hours in the content area.
- Pass a content-area test in the endorsement area and have at least 24 semester hours of course credit in the content area.

*The following content areas are exceptions to the above general rules: Sciences, Social Sciences, Foreign Languages, Technology Specialist, Reading Teacher, Reading Specialist, Self-Contained General Education, Safety and Driver Education, Bilingual Education, and ESL.*

#### **Endorsements at the Middle Grades Level**

The middle grades encompass grades 5-8 for elementary certificates and 6-8 for secondary certificates. Most middle grade endorsements require 18 semester hours of credit in content courses, plus six semester hours of credit in courses designed to acquaint the teacher with the special aspects of teaching at that level. **These endorsement requirements alone will not make a teacher highly qualified in the core academic areas for NCLB purposes.**

Elementary, secondary, and special certificates may be endorsed for teaching at the middle school level. Several subjects, such as reading teacher, mathematics, bilingual, and English as a Second Language have a specific distribution of content that must be met before a teacher may obtain these endorsements.

### a) Primary-Level Endorsements

Some subjects require 18 hours or more to teach at the primary level. Teachers may request primary-level endorsements in the following subjects: English as a Second Language, Bilingual Education, Reading Teacher, Library Information Specialist, and Technology Specialist. Except for the middle grades pedagogy courses, the requirements in the content area are identical with those for the middle grades for each subject.

### b) Middle Grades Endorsements

Endorsements at the middle grades level require a minimum of 18 semester hours of coursework in the endorsement areas. In addition, all middle grades teachers must have the following pedagogy courses:

- 3 semester hours of coursework that includes middle-grade philosophy, curriculum, and methods including content-area reading instruction.
- 3 semester hours of educational psychology coursework that focuses on the developmental characteristics of early adolescence.

#### Elementary 5-8 and Secondary 6-8 Certificate Endorsement Subjects

Agricultural Education	Language Arts
Art	Library Information Specialist
Bilingual Education	Mathematics
Biological Science	Music
Business/Marketing/Management	Physical Education
Computer Applications	Physical Science
Computer Science	Reading Specialist (Requires Approved Program)
Dance	Reading Teacher
English as a Second Language	Safety & Driver's Education
Family and Consumer Science	Self-Contained General Education (Requires Approved Program)

Foreign Languages	Social Science
General Science	Speech
General Geography	Speech/Theater
Health Education	Technology Specialist
Industrial Technology Education	Theater/Drama

### c) Requirements for Middle Grades Bilingual Endorsement

Persons seeking this endorsement must have a total of 18 semester hours of coursework required below and meet the other requirements:

- A valid Illinois teacher certificate.
- Bilingual clinical experience totaling 100 clock hours or three months teaching experience in bilingual programs.
- Successful completion of a language examination in the non-English language to be taught.
- Credits totaling 18 semester hours distributed among the following course areas:
  - a. Foundations of Bilingual Education
  - b. Assessment of Bilingual Students
  - c. Methods and Materials for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students in Bilingual Programs
  - d. Cross-Cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students
  - e. Methods and Materials for Teaching English as a Second Language

### d) Requirements for Middle Grades English as a Second Language Endorsement

Persons seeking this endorsement must have a total of 18 semester hours of coursework required below and meet the other requirements:

- A valid Illinois teaching certificate.
- ESL clinical experience equal to 100 clock hours or three months teaching experience with ESL students.
- Credits totaling 18 semester hours distributed among the following course areas.
  - a. Linguistics
  - b. Theoretical Foundations of Teaching ESL
  - c. Assessment of the Bilingual Student
  - d. Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL
  - e. Cross-Cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students

#### **e) Requirements for Middle Grades Endorsement in Foreign Languages**

Persons seeking this endorsement must have a total of 18 semester hours of content courses in a specific language or must successfully pass the appropriate foreign language content-area test.

#### **f) Requirements for Middle Grades Mathematics Endorsement**

**Requirements for this endorsement include a three-semester hour course in methods of teaching mathematics in the middle grades and 15 semester hours selected from four of the topics below:**

- A. Math content courses for elementary teachers
- B. Calculus
- C. Modern algebra or number theory
- D. Geometry
- E. Computer science
- F. Probability and statistics
- G. History of mathematics

#### **g) Library Information Specialist**

Individuals seeking the middle grades endorsement in Library Information Specialist will be required to complete either a major in the content area, or they must have 24 semester hours of content and pass the content test for Library Information Specialist.

#### **h) Requirements for Reading Specialist Endorsement**

This endorsement requires the completion of an approved Illinois reading specialist program. The institution must recommend the individual for this endorsement.

#### **i) Requirements for Middle Grades Reading Teacher Endorsement**

The Reading Teacher endorsement is the minimum requirement for anyone assigned to teach reading who is not teaching reading as part of general classroom instruction. Teachers who have the endorsement by June 30, 2006, or meet the endorsement requirements in place through June 30, 2006, are also qualified to provide technical assistance to other teachers and to provide professional development to teachers.

**Applicants must complete one of the following:**

1. Complete an approved reading teacher program which includes at least 24 semester hours of coursework and a practicum, complete the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist test, and be recommended for the endorsement by the institution.

2. **Complete 24 semester hours of credit in reading, have coursework in each of the following areas, and pass the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist test.**

- a. Foundations of reading.
- b. Content-area reading.
- c. Assessment and diagnosis of reading problems.
- d. Developmental and remedial reading instruction and support.
- e. Developmental and remedial materials and resources.
- f. Literature appropriate to students in all grade levels.
- g. Practicum in reading.

Applicants who apply for the reading teacher endorsement by using option 2 should submit ISBE Form 73-52 through their Regional Office of Education or apply online through ECS .

#### **j) Requirements for Endorsement in Self-Contained General Education**

Endorsements for Self-Contained General Education on any certificate will be available only to persons who complete an approved program for the endorsement and who pass the Elementary/Middle Grades Content test (#110). This endorsement will be limited to grades 6-8 on a secondary certificate.

#### **k) Requirements for Middle Grades Technology Specialist Endorsement**

Applicants are required to complete 24 semester hours of content-area coursework and pass the Technology Specialist (#178) content test. See the ICTS Web site for additional testing information.

#### **l) Secondary-Level Endorsements**

Most secondary-level endorsements require either completion of a degreed major or 32 semester hours in the content area or 24 semester hours and the appropriate certification test.

The following endorsement areas are exceptions to the above requirements:

1. Bilingual Education
2. Driver Education and Safety
3. English as a Second Language
4. Foreign Languages
5. Library Information Specialist
6. Reading Specialist
7. Reading Teacher
8. Sciences
9. Self-Contained General Education
10. Social Sciences
11. Technology Specialist

## **m) Secondary Endorsements with Special Provisions**

### ***Bilingual Education***

Persons seeking this endorsement must meet each of the following requirements:

- Have earned a valid professional Illinois teacher certificate.
- Have successfully completed (1) bilingual clinical experience totaling 100 clock hours or (2) three months teaching experience in bilingual programs.
- Have successfully completed a language examination in the non-English language to be taught.
- Have successfully completed credits totaling 18 semester hours distributed among the following course areas:
  - a. Foundations of Bilingual Education
  - b. Assessment of Bilingual Students
  - c. Methods and Materials for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students in Bilingual Programs
  - d. Cross-Cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students
  - e. Methods and Materials for Teaching English as a Second Language

### ***Safety and Driver Education***

This endorsement requires 16 semester hours of coursework in the following areas:

1. 3 semester hours in general safety
2. 5 semester hours in driver education and advanced traffic safety
3. 8 semester hours from two or more of the following areas:
  - A. General safety, including traffic and industrial
  - B. Advanced psychology and sociology
  - C. First aid and health
  - D. Instructional materials

Teachers assigned to either simulation or multiple-car programs shall have preparation in the use of these methods which shall consist of a minimum of 1 semester hour or its equivalent in each area.

### ***English as a Second Language***

This endorsement has the following requirements:

- Hold a valid Illinois teaching certificate.
- Have successfully completed (1) English as a Second Language (ESL) clinical experience equal to 100 clock hours or (2) three months teaching experience with ESL students.
- Have successfully completed credits totaling 18 semester hours distributed among the following course areas:

1. Linguistics
2. Theoretical Foundations of Teaching ESL
3. Assessment of the Bilingual Student
4. Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL
5. Cross-Cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students

### ***Foreign Languages***

An endorsement in a foreign language can be obtained by meeting one of the following:

(a) Completing a degreed major in the foreign language or completing 32 semester hours of credit in the foreign language.

(b) Successful completion of the content-area examination in the foreign language.

(c) Individuals *who already hold an endorsement in a foreign language and want to add an endorsement in the same language at a grade level that exceeds their certificate must* pass the appropriate Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) test which corresponds to the additional grade levels.

(d) If there is no content-area test in the foreign language, ISBE will determine which target language proficiency test should be completed.

### ***Reading Specialist***

The reading specialist endorsement on the Special certificate is available to persons who meet each of the following requirements:

- Complete an approved reading specialist program.
- Have a master's or higher degree.
- Pass the reading specialist content-area examination.
- Pass any other applicable examinations required for certification.

This endorsement requires two years of teaching experience on a valid certificate. Reading Specialist may be issued as a full certificate or as an endorsement on an existing teaching certificate. The reading specialist is authorized to teach reading and to provide technical assistance and professional development to teachers.

**Note: Language arts teachers are not qualified to teach reading unless they meet reading teacher/reading specialist requirements.**

### ***Reading Teacher***

The Reading Teacher endorsement is the minimum requirement for anyone assigned to teach reading who is not teaching reading as part of general classroom instruction. Teachers who have the endorsement by June 30, 2006, or meet the endorsement requirements in place through June 30, 2006, are also qualified to provide technical assistance to other teachers and to provide professional development to teachers.

**Applicants must complete one of the following:**

1. Complete an approved reading teacher program which includes at least 24 semester hours of coursework and a practicum, complete the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist test, and be recommended for the endorsement by the institution.
  
2. Complete 24 semester hours of credit in reading, have coursework in each of the following areas, and pass the Reading Teacher or Reading Specialist test.
  - a. Foundations of reading.
  - b. Content-area reading.
  - c. Assessment and diagnosis of reading problems.
  - d. Developmental and remedial reading instruction and support.
  - e. Developmental and remedial materials and resources.
  - f. Literature appropriate to students in all grade levels.
  - g. Practicum in reading.

Applicants who apply for the reading teacher endorsement by using option 2 should submit ISBE Form 73-52 through their Regional Office of Education or apply online through ECS.

### ***Self-Contained General Education***

Endorsements for Self-Contained General Education on any certificate will be available only to persons who complete an approved program for the endorsement and who pass the elementary/middle grades content test. On a secondary certificate, this endorsement will be limited to grades 6-8.

### ***Social Sciences and Sciences***

An applicant with a broad field endorsement with a specific designation may teach all subjects included in the broad field at the general level and may also teach advanced placement or honors level courses in the specific designation area.

### *Applicants seeking a first designation*

Applicants seeking a first designation must fulfill either the first or the second set of requirements below:

1. Complete an Illinois approved program and pass the content-area examination for the designation.
2. Complete each of the following requirements:
  - a. Pass the content-area test for the designation
  - b. Complete 32 semester hours in the broad field with a minimum of each of the following:
    - 1) 12 semester hours in the designation
    - 2) Courses in at least two other subjects in the broad field
    - 3) Science designations require coursework in both the biological and physical sciences

### *Applicants who already have a designation in the field (science or social science)*

Applicants who have a previous designation in either field may obtain an additional designation in the same field by fulfilling one of the following requirements:

- Pass the content-area examination for the designation.
- Have a degreed major in the designation.
- Have 32 semester hours in the designation.

Applicants who have an endorsement under the pre-July, 2004, requirements in the field of science or social science may obtain a designation by passing the new content-area test for the designation. They may then obtain subsequent designations as indicated in the preceding section.

### *Technology Specialist*

This endorsement is applicable to individuals who teach computer science and who serve as the district technology expert for hardware, networking and programming. It requires a minimum of 24 semester hours of work in the content area and passing the technology specialist content test.

### *Supervisory Endorsement on Special (K-12 or Pre-K to Age 21) Certificates*

Individuals with special certificates who have two years of teaching experience and a master's degree with eight semester hours of graduate work in professional education that includes one course primarily and explicitly in the supervision of personnel and one course primarily and explicitly in the organization and administration of schools may, upon application, be issued a certificate valid for teaching and for supervising teachers who are assigned to teach in the same subject area in which the Special certificate is endorsed.

*n) Endorsement Structure: Chart*

*An asterisk next to the name of an endorsement or designation indicates that there is no content-area test for that credential. See the [ICTS Website](#) for additional testing information.*

<b>Current Endorsements</b>	<b>Designations</b>	<b>Endorsements Previously Issued</b>
<b>Primary Endorsements</b>	Bilingual Education English as a Second Language Library Information Specialist Reading Teacher Reading Specialist Technology Specialist	
<b>Early Childhood</b>		
Early Childhood	None	Early Childhood
Early Childhood Special Education	None	
<b>Elementary</b>		
Self-Contained General Elementary Education	None	Self-Contained General Education
<b>Middle Level</b>	Subject Specific	Middle Grades
<b>Senior High Endorsements</b>		
Agricultural Education	None	Agricultural Business and Management Agriculture Agricultural Power and Machinery Horticulture Agricultural Resources
Bilingual Education	Target Language	Bilingual Education

Business, Marketing, and Computer Education - Designation Optional	Business Computer Programming*	Accounting Basic Business Business Computer Programming Business/Marketing/Management Information Processing Information Processing/Secretarial Marketing
Computer Applications*	None	
Computer Science	None	
Dance	None	Dance
Drama/Theatre Arts	None	Theatre and Drama
English as a New Language (ENL) - Designation Optional	Bilingual Education (language-specific)	English as a Second Language
English as a Second Language	None	English as a Second Language
English Language Arts	None	English Journalism Speech
Family and Consumer Sciences - Designation Required	Apparel and Textiles* Living Environments* Nutrition, Wellness, and Hospitality*	Child and Day Care Services Consumer Education and Resource Management Fashion and Clothing Services Food and Nutrition Services Home Economics Institutional and Home Management Services Interior Furnishings Services/Living Environments Interpersonal, Family Relationships, Parenting

Foreign Languages - Designation Required	Arabic Chinese (Cantonese) Chinese (Mandarin) French German Hebrew Italian Japanese Korean Latin Russian Spanish Others, As Applicable	French German Hebrew Italian Latin Russian Spanish
Health Education	None	Health Education
Library Information Specialist	None	Media
Mathematics	None	Mathematics
Music	None	Music Instrumental Music Vocal Music
Physical Education	None	Physical Education
Reading Teacher	None	Reading
Reading Specialist	None	Reading
Safety and Driver Education*	None	Safety and Driver Education

Sciences - Designation Required	Biology Chemistry Earth and Space Science Environmental Science Physics	Biological Science Botany Physiology Zoology Chemistry Aerospace Astronomy Earth Science Geology Physical Geography Biological Science Physical Science General Science Physics
Social Sciences - Designation Required	Economics Geography History Political Science Psychology Sociology and Anthropology	Economics Geography History U.S. History World History Political Science Psychology Anthropology Sociology
Technology Education	None	Industrial Technology Education Construction Electronics Graphic Communications Transportation Manufacturing Industrial Technology Public Service Drafting/Design Autobody Repair Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
Technology Specialist	None	Computer Technology Instructional Technology
Visual Arts	None	Art
Administrative		

Chief School Business Official	Chief School Business Official
Director of Special Education	Director of Special Education
General Administrative	General Administrative
Superintendent	Superintendent
<b>School Service Personnel</b>	
School Counselor	Guidance
School Nurse	School Nurse
School Psychologist	School Psychologist
School Social Worker	School Social Worker
Non-Teaching Speech-Language Pathologist	Non-Teaching Speech-Language Pathologist
Supervisory	Supervisory