
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF ADOPTED AMENDMENTS

Section 25.720 Applicability of Testing Requirement and Scores

- a) It is the individual's responsibility to take the appropriate tests. Upon request, the State Board of Education shall assist individuals in identifying appropriate tests.
- b) Basic Skills Test

Except as provided in subsections (b)(1) and (3) of this Section, each candidate seeking his or her first Illinois certificate (teaching, administrative, or school service personnel) shall be required to pass the test of basic skills. Further, Section 21-1a(d) of the School Code requires passage of this test as a prerequisite to enrollment in an Illinois teacher preparation program beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year.

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- 1) A person who has passed the test of basic skills as a condition of admittance to an Illinois preparation program approved pursuant to Subpart C of this Part shall not be required to retake that test.
 - 2) A person who has passed the basic skills test and has been issued an Illinois certificate on the basis of the test shall not be required to retake the basic skills test when seeking any subsequent certificate.
 - 3) *A person who holds a valid and comparable out-of-state certificate is not required to take a test of basic skills.* (Section 21-1a of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/21-1a]) For purposes of this subsection (b)(3), a “comparable certificate” is one that either:
 - A) was issued on or before June 30, 2004; or
 - B) was issued on or after July 1, 2004, based on the individual’s passage of a test of basic skills.
 - 4) The provisions of subsection (b)(3) of this Section notwithstanding, any individual who has attempted the Illinois basic skills test without passing it shall be required to pass it in order to qualify for an Illinois certificate.
 - 5) When a person who was not required to take the basic skills test pursuant to subsection (b)(3)(A) of this Section seeks a subsequent Illinois certificate, he or she shall be required to pass the Illinois test of basic skills. However, a person applying for another Illinois certificate based on an additional out-of-state certificate or qualifications shall be treated as an out-of-state applicant and shall be subject to subsection (b)(3) of this Section.
- c) Content-Area Tests
- 1) Except as provided in subsection (c)(2) of this Section, each candidate seeking an Illinois certificate, whether his or her first certificate or a subsequent certificate, shall be required to pass a content-area test. The required content-area test is that which corresponds to the approved program completed or the endorsement for which the applicant otherwise qualifies. Further, Section 21-1a(d) of the School Code requires passage of this test for program completion.

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- 2) *A person who holds a valid and comparable out-of-state certificate is not required to take the applicable content-area test if he or she has passed a certification test in another state or territory that is directly related in content to the specific area of certification.* (Section 21-1a of the School Code) For purposes of this Section, a test is “directly related in content” if it covered material encompassed by any of the subject areas in which the individual otherwise qualifies for an Illinois endorsement.
- 3) A person who has passed a test of language proficiency in order to qualify for a transitional bilingual certificate and received that certificate shall not be required to retake that test in order to qualify for a bilingual education credential on another certificate received later. A person who has passed a test of language proficiency as a condition of admission to an Illinois preparation program shall also not be required to retake that test.

d) Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT)

Each candidate seeking his or her first Illinois early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special certificate shall be required to pass the APT relevant to the certificate sought (see Section 25.710 of this Part). A candidate seeking a subsequent teaching certificate of one of these types must also pass the APT relevant to the certificate sought, unless he or she either:

- 1) has already passed an APT that encompasses the grade levels of the subsequent certificate sought; or
- 2) already holds another Illinois teaching certificate that encompasses the grade levels of the certificate sought.

e) Except as provided in subsections (b)(1), (c) (3), and (d)(1) of this Section, for each person seeking an Illinois certificate, no score on a required test may be more than ten years old at the time application is made. The ten-year period shall be calculated from the date the test was taken and passed to the date of receipt of the application by the State Board of Education. Scores more than ten years old will not be accepted as part of an application.

- 1) The ten-year period discussed in this subsection (e) shall apply to each score that forms part of an application received on or after July 1, 2008.

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- 2) The ten-year period discussed in this subsection (e) shall also apply to each score that forms part of an application that is pending as of June 30, 2008, and to each score that forms part of an application for which an evaluation is still valid as of that date pursuant to Section 25.427 of this Part.
- f) Subject to registration in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart I, the provisions of Section 25.755(g)(1) of this Part, and the limitations of subsection (h) of this Section, an individual who has taken a paper-and-pencil ~~Any person may retake any test~~ may retake that test during any subsequent, regularly scheduled administration of that test in paper-and-pencil format and may retake that test by computer during any subsequent computer-based test administration; ~~subject only to registration in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart I.~~
- g) Subject to registration in accordance with the provisions of this Subpart I, the provisions of Section 25.755(g)(1) of this Part, and the limitations of subsection (h) of this Section, an individual who has taken a computer-based test may retake that test by computer after no fewer than 120 days but also may retake that test during any subsequent, regularly scheduled administration of the test in paper-and-pencil format.
- h) Subsequent to January 1, 2010, ~~no individual may attempt to pass the same test more than five times in any combination of the two formats.~~

(Source: Amended at 33 Ill. Reg. _____, effective _____)