

Note: Nothing in this document supersedes statute or rules that are in effect at the time of application. While these requirements were in effect at the time this document was posted on the ISBE Web site, there will be significant rule changes with various dates of implementation when [Public Act 097-0607](#) becomes effective.

XV. Certification Tests for Educators

Tests Required for Illinois Certificates

All applicants for early childhood, elementary, secondary and special teaching certificates and all applicants for school service personnel and administrative certificates are required to pass a test of basic skills and content knowledge applicable to the endorsement on the certificate sought. In addition, applicants for teaching certificates are also required to pass an Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) test appropriate to the grade level of the certificate sought. Applicants for most special education certificates are required to take the Special Education General Curriculum test. Institutions of higher learning cannot waive certification tests.

Effective January 12, 2010, an individual may not attempt to pass the same ICTS test more than five times. Any previous test attempts for the same test made prior to that date do not count toward the five-time limit.

Information about certification requirements is available at <http://www.isbe.net/certification>, and specific details pertaining to certification testing are available at <http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/testing.htm>. Additional information regarding test dates, study guides, test selection, and registration is available on the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Web site at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>.

Those persons who attempt to pass examinations through deception will, when discovered, be denied all current and future requests for certification.

Basic Skills Test: The Basic Skills test assesses reading comprehension, grammar and writing, and mathematics. This test is required for all individuals seeking early childhood, elementary, secondary, special K – 12/Pre-K – age 21, administrative and school service personnel certificates. Individuals who pass the Basic Skills test and receive Illinois certificates based in part on passage of that test are not required to take the Basic Skills test for any subsequent Illinois certificates.

Unless the Illinois test was previously failed, a test waiver option for the Basic Skills test MAY apply to applicants with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates. ISBE makes the final determination regarding waivers. Note: When [Public Act 097-0607](#) becomes effective, no exemption will be available for the Basic Skills test. Visit the ICTS Web site for additional information regarding testing.

Content-Area Tests: The content-area tests are aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards for the content area of each endorsement attached to a certificate. These tests are required for all individuals seeking early childhood, elementary, secondary, special K – 12/Pre-K – age 21, administrative and school service personnel certificates. The content-area tests are also required for the issuance of some

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subsequent endorsements (see Endorsement Test Options). A listing of all content-area tests is available on the [ICTS Web site](#).

Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT): The APT assesses candidates on professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills. The APT is available in four levels: birth to grade 3, grades K – 9, grades 6 – 12, and grades K – 12. The APT is required for early childhood, elementary, secondary, special K – 12/Pre-K – age 21 teaching certificates.

Special Education General Curriculum Test: The Special Education General Curriculum(#163) test is required for the following special education *teaching* certificates: Learning Behavior Specialist I, Teachers of Students with Deafness/Hard of Hearing, Teachers of Students with Blindness/Visual Impairments, and Speech and Language Pathologist: Teaching.

Language Proficiency Tests: The language proficiency tests are for individuals seeking transitional bilingual certificates, endorsements, or approvals. The language proficiency tests target specific languages other than English. A test of language proficiency is required unless the applicant received a degree from an institution where the target language was the medium of instruction. A test in English Language Proficiency is required unless the applicant received a degree from an institution where English was the medium of instruction. A listing of all language proficiency tests is available on the [ICTS Web site](#).

*Individuals completing state-approved traditional or alternative certification programs through Illinois institutions are also subject to certification testing requirements. Those candidates should contact the certification officer at their institution regarding testing requirements and timelines. See the [ICTS Web site](#) for additional information regarding certification testing.

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Required Tests	
Certificate	Required Certification Tests
Elementary Grades K – 9 <i>Type 03</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test (#300) ○ Content-Area Test – Elementary/Middle Grades (#110) ○ APT Grades K –9 (#102) or ○ APT Grades K –12 (#104)
Early Childhood Birth – Grade 3 <i>Type 04</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test (#300) ○ Content-Area Test – Early Childhood Education (#107) ○ APT Birth – Grade 3 (#101)
Secondary Grades 6 – 12 <i>Type 09</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test(300) ○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement ○ APT Grades 6 – 12 (#103) or ○ APT Grades K – 12 (#104)
Special K – 12 <i>Type 10 or 03/09 Split</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test(#300) ○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement ○ APT Grades K – 12 (#104)
Special Pre-K – Age 21 <i>Type 10 or 03/09 Split</i> (limited to LBSI, speech and language teaching, blind/visually impaired, and deaf hard of hearing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test (#300) ○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement ○ APT Grades K – 12 (#104) ○ Special Education General Curriculum (#163)
Transitional Bilingual <i>Type 29</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language Proficiency Test in the Target Language or English Language Proficiency Test
School Service Personnel <i>Type 73</i> School Counselor, School Nurse, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, nonteaching Speech and Language Pathologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test (#300) ○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement
Administrative <i>Type 75</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Basic Skills Test (#300) ○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement