



Illinois State Board of Education

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State Superintendent of Education

April 1, 2009

To: Applicants for a special certificate
From: Linda Jamali, Division Administrator,
Educator Certification
Re: Option to split a special certificate to elementary and secondary certificates

Beginning April 1, 2009, individuals applying for a special (K–12) certificate will not have the option available on the certificate application – either on paper or online – to split the certificate into elementary (K–9) and secondary (6–12) certificates. The option will still be available, but applicants will have to contact their Regional Office of Education when making the application to submit a paper application together with a request in writing that the certificate be split. We are making this change because experience has shown that few if any advantages exist to splitting the special certificate, while there are several disadvantages.

The original reason for splitting K–12 special certificates was that subsequent endorsements could not be added to a K–12 certificate. Beginning July 1, 2004, however, certification rules became effective that allowed holders of K–12 certificates to add additional endorsements to those certificates.

Following are the main disadvantages to splitting your type 10 certificate:

- ✓ You will incur additional cost when moving from initial to standard certificates because you will have to submit two applications and fees.
- ✓ Adding endorsements to the certificates will also require two applications and fees.
- ✓ Once the certificate is split, prospective employers may not consider it to be the same as a special K–12 certificate.

After considering the above information, if you choose to have your certificate split, you must submit a paper application and attach a signed and dated statement to it requesting that the certificate be split into an elementary and secondary certificate when it is issued.

If you have questions regarding this matter, information can be provided by contacting your [Regional Office of Education](#) or calling (217)557-6763.