

# Illinois State Board of Education

## Certification Tests for Educators

### Tests Required for Illinois Certificates

The Illinois certification system has specific tests required for issuance of each teaching, school service personnel, and administrative certificate.

Information about testing, including frequently asked questions, is 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/PreK – 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.

*Test waiver options MAY apply to applicants with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates.*

**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/PreK – age 21, administrative and school service personnel certificates. The content-area tests are also required for the issuance of some subsequent endorsements (see Endorsement Test Options). *Waiver options MAY apply to applicants with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates.* A listing of all content-area tests is available on the testing Web site at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>.

**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/PreK – age 21 teaching certificates.

**Special Education General Curriculum** The Special Education General Curriculum test is required for all 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 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 testing Web site at <http://www.itcs.nesinc.com>.

<b>Tests Required For Issuance of Illinois Certificates</b>	
<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Required Certification Tests</b>
Elementary Grades K – 9 Type 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test (#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test – Elementary/Middle Grades (#110)</li> <li>○ APT Grades K –9 (#102) <b>or</b> APT Grades K –12 (#104)</li> </ul>
Early Childhood Birth – Gr. 3 Type 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test (#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test – Early Childhood Education (#107) <b>or</b> Early Childhood Special Education (#152)</li> <li>○ APT Birth – Grade 3 (#101)</li> </ul>
Secondary Grades 6 – 12 Type 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test #096</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement</li> <li>○ APT Grades 6 – 12 (#103) or APT Grades K – 12 (#104)</li> </ul>
Special K – 12 Type 10 or 03/09 Split	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test(#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement</li> <li>○ APT Grades K – 12 (#104)</li> </ul>
Special PreK – Age 21 Type 10 or 03/09 Split (limited to LBSI, speech and language teaching, blind/visually impaired, and deaf hard of hearing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test (#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement</li> <li>○ APT Grades K – 12 (#104)</li> <li>○ Special Education General Curriculum (#163)</li> </ul>
Transitional Bilingual Type 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Language Proficiency Test in the Target Language</li> </ul>
School Service Personnel Type 73 School Counselor, School Psychologist, School Social Worker, nonteaching Speech and Language Pathologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test (#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement</li> </ul>
Administrative Type 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Basic Skills Test (#096)</li> <li>○ Content-Area Test for Specific Area of Endorsement</li> </ul>
*Individuals completing state-approved 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.	

### **Tests Required for Endorsements**

Individuals who hold Illinois certificates may apply for subsequent endorsements on their existing certificates. Many applicants seeking subsequent secondary level endorsements have an option of fulfilling the endorsement requirements by completing 24 semester hours of coursework and passing the content-area test. Some designations, however, will require a test regardless of the number of content-area credits the applicants have. See the *Endorsement* section of this document for further information on those endorsement areas.

### **Testing Timelines for Provisional Certificates**

Individuals with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates may apply for provisional certificates. All certification testing deficiencies must be removed within nine months of the issuance of the provisional certificate. Failure to meet all testing requirements within the nine month timeframe will result in cancellation of the provisional certificate.

### **Testing Requirements for Out-of-State Applicants**

Illinois certification regulations allow the Illinois State Board of Education to consider certification tests passed in other states for application toward Illinois requirements for basic skills and content-area tests.

Individuals with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates are required to pass the Basic Skills test with the following exceptions:

- The valid, comparable out-of-state certificate was issued prior to July 1, 2004, OR
- The individual was required to pass a standardized test of basic skills for issuance of an out-of-state certificate.

Individuals with valid, comparable out-of-state certificates are required to pass the content-area test with the following exception:

- The individual was required to pass a content-area test for issuance of an out-of-state certificate.

Applicants should note the parameters for consideration of any out-of-state tests.

- **A valid, comparable, out-of-state certificate is required.**
- The regulations allow, but do not guarantee, test waivers:
  - Applicants must meet **all** requirements for the test waiver.
  - The out-of-state tests must meet **all** requirements for the test waiver:
    - Test requirements vary from state to state.
    - The Illinois State Board of Education makes the final determination regarding all out-of-state tests.
- Applicants completing approved Illinois entitlement programs are required to pass the Illinois certification tests. **Institutions of higher learning cannot waive certification tests.**
- Waiver options are limited to the Basic Skills test and content-area tests.
  - No waiver option exists for the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT).
  - No waiver option exists for the Special Education General Curriculum test.
- Waiver options are limited to the issuance of new certificates.
  - **The issuance of subsequent certificates may require passage of a test that was previously waived.**
  - Waiver options do not apply when adding endorsements to existing Illinois certificates.
- The Confirmation of State Tests Taken form (ISBE 73-99) is required for requests for test waivers (*unless otherwise specified by the Illinois State Board of Education*).