Pathways to Licensure: Elementary Education (self-contained)

Are you looking to fill a vacant Elementary Education (self-contained) position in your school? You may have an educator in your school or district who is already qualified to fill the position! The requirements below outline the most common credentials that educators earn to work in Elementary Education settings.

Professional Educator License (PEL) requirements

Option 1
PEL + Elementary Education endorsement
(Grades K-9 or 1-6)

Option 2
PEL + Early Childhood endorsement (Grades B-2 or B-3)

(for teaching grades prekindergarten up to Grade 2 or 3)

Option 3
PEL + Early Childhood Special Education endorsement
(Grades B-2 or B-3)

(for teaching grades prekindergarten up to Grade 2 or 3)

Option 4
PEL + Previous Qualification Designation for Elementary Education (Grades K-9)

Short-Term Approval (STA) Requirements

Option 1
STA — Elementary Education
(Grades K-9 or 1-6)
✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
✓ One of the following:
■ Nine semester hours of coursework in Elementary Education (specific coursework is required)
■ A passing score on the Elementary Education content test

Option 2
STA — Early Childhood
(for teaching grades prekindergarten up to Grade 2)
✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
✓ One of the following:
■ Nine semester hours of coursework in Early Childhood Education (specific coursework is required)
■ A passing score on the Early Childhood Education content test

Option 3
STA — Content Knowledge Pathway
✓ Bachelor's degree in any Elementary field (not related to education)
✓ A passing score on the Elementary Education content test

These approvals are temporary credentials that allow an educator to immediately begin teaching while working toward full licensure requirements.

Application procedures

1. View full requirements at www.isbe.net/licensure

2. Create or login to your existing ELIS account

3. Submit the applicable endorsement or approval application

4. Pay the $50 application fee

5. Submit required forms and transcripts to your ROE/ISC

Illinois State Board of Education