

Integrating Kindergarten into the Elementary Education Endorsement Grade Band

October 7, 2025

Meeting Agenda

- Framing and Context
- Preparation Leads to Assignability
- Short Term Approval
- Other Wonders
- Next Steps

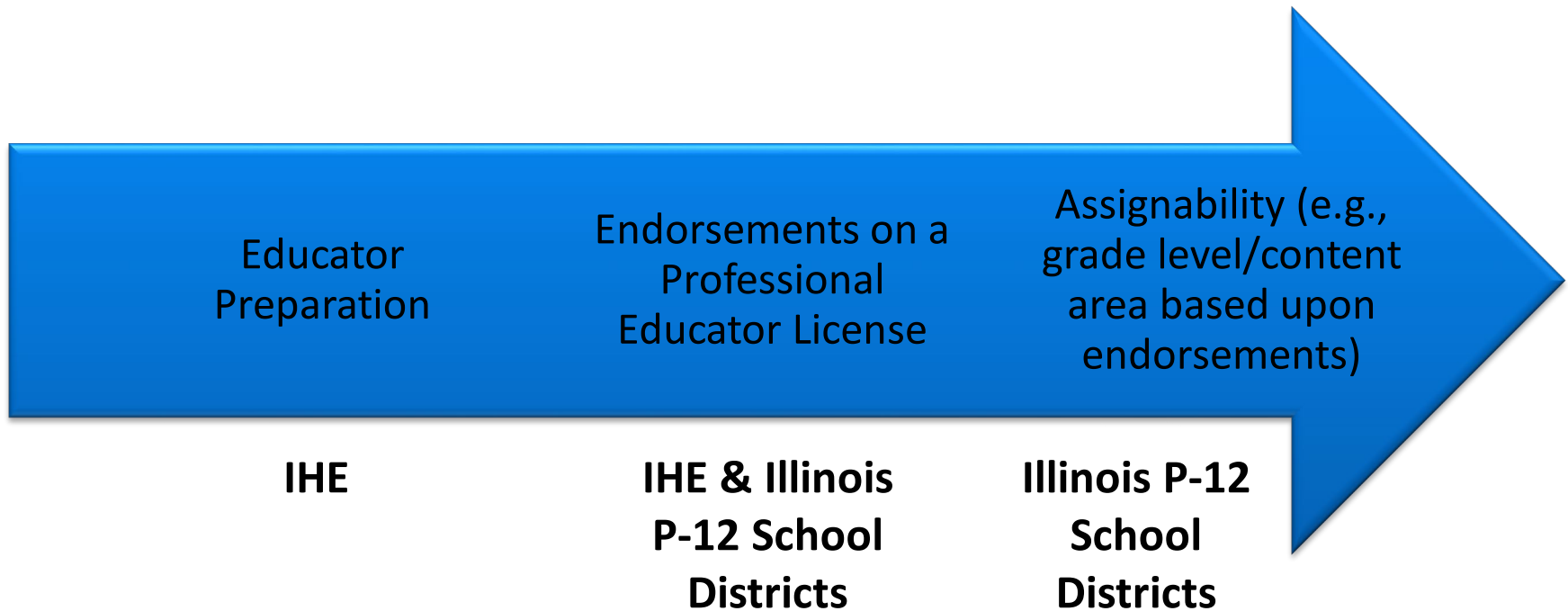
Framing and Context

- Elementary Education:
 - Endorsement awarded for K-9 (through January 31, 2018)
 - February 1, 2018: Grade range changed to 1-6
- Early Childhood Education
 - Endorsement awarded for Birth- Grade 3 through September 1, 2020
 - September 2, 2020: Grade range changed to B-2

Framing and Context

- Requests from field- difficulty assigning properly licensed teachers to kindergarten positions
- Could:
 - allow more flexibility in teacher assignability across grades
 - provide a greater pool of qualified potential applicants
 - increase applications in rural or hard-to-staff schools
 - reduce substitute teachers or other means of temporarily assigning educators to roles due to lack of qualified teachers

Preparation Leads to Assignability



Short Term Approvals

- Educators who hold a PEL endorsed for 1-6 Elementary Education can apply in ELIS for:
 - Kindergarten approval **or**
 - Any educator with a valid PEL can apply for a STA in Early Childhood

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/educator-licensure-approvals.aspx>

Short Term Approval

- STA
 - Valid for 3 Fiscal years
 - Non-renewable
 - 9 credit hours or Successful Completion of applicable content exam
- Kindergarten Approval
 - Attributes of a Kindergarten Teacher
 - Ways of showing the attributes of a Kindergarten Teacher

Menti 1

Menti 2

Other Wonders

In addition to the identified attributes and ways of showing possession of them, please share other wonders about the Kindergarten Approval.

Menti 3

Questions