

Frequently Asked Questions - Public Act 103-0846

[PA 103-0846](#) became law on August 9, 2024. There have been a few key changes for teacher candidates and preparation programs in Illinois; thus, this FAQ document has been created. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to preparation@isbe.net.



Can an institution require that the content test be taken prior to student teaching or entitlement for the Educator License with Stipulations- Alternative Provisional License (ELS-APE)?

The new law only removes the statement about the test being required before student teaching. Programs may still choose to require the test earlier in the program.



When will changes be in place for scoring and taking content test subareas independently?

ISBE has not yet promulgated rules for taking and scoring subtests separately and independently. Until the rules are finalized, the scoring system for the test will remain the same as it was before the legislation passed.

The rulemaking process takes a considerable amount of time and may take up to a year after the rules are introduced to ISBE's Board. ISBE will notify the field once it publishes rules for public comment, so stakeholders have a chance to share their thoughts before language is finalized.



Do we need to update our institutional policies to reflect this change?

Updating institutional policies may be necessary to ensure alignment with the revised requirements for student teaching and teacher preparation.



How will this change affect the process of placing student teachers with cooperating/mentor teachers?

The law does not require changes to placement processes. An institution may want to update the evaluation and preparation of candidates for student teaching and provide additional support for those teachers attempting to pass the content test during student teaching prior to program completion. Placement of students in student teaching may be strategically used to match students to cooperating/mentor teachers or placements that will best support positive outcomes for the student.



Will there be any new reporting requirements related to this change?

The Public Act does not specify new reporting requirements directly related to the removal of the content area test.



How are institutions able to assess candidates' content knowledge effectively if the test is no longer required prior to student teaching/issuance of the ELS-APE?

Institutions may determine procedures and processes that best fit their programs and candidates. The content test will continue to be a requirement for licensure. To assess content knowledge, consider current coursework and assessments that would provide evidence of the candidate's content-knowledge throughout the program. Institutions can adjust or add assessments as they see fit.