



# Illinois State Board of Education

## FAQs for Senate Bill 2912 *Effective January 6, 2017*

### Out-of-State Educators

#### **1. How may an educator request a re-evaluation under the new requirements implemented with Senate Bill 2912?**

If an educator was evaluated under requirements prior to the implementation of SB2912 and the deficient evaluation is still valid (check the “evaluation valid through” date on the deficiency letter), he or she may request a re-evaluation of the application by emailing a request to [licensure@isbe.net](mailto:licensure@isbe.net). The email should include the educator’s name and Illinois Educator Identification Number (IEIN.) Educators must ensure all materials (such as copies of out-of-state licenses or necessary ISBE forms) needed to process the re-evaluation are on file prior to submitting their requests.

If an educator was evaluated under requirements prior to the implementation of SB2912 and the evaluation is no longer valid (check the “evaluation valid through” date on the deficiency letter), he or she must reapply for the license or endorsement sought in ELIS.

All new applications received will be evaluated under the new requirements.

#### **2. If an educator completed an out-of-state teaching or school support personnel program but never received a license in that state, will ISBE issue an Illinois license based on verification of completion of the out- of-state approved program?**

No. State-approved program verification of completion is no longer a factor for initial teaching and school support personnel licensure. An educator must obtain licensure in the state in which he or she was prepared, and ISBE will issue a comparable license. Specific Illinois requirements must be met for the initial license (see question #6 below.)

#### **3. Will an educator receive an Illinois license for all areas on his or her out-of-state license?**

Educators will receive comparable Illinois endorsements for all areas listed on their OOS license at the time of initial licensure in Illinois. An educator must meet all Illinois licensure requirements for one endorsement area listed on the out-of-state license (see question #6



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below.) All additional endorsements will be considered “subsequent endorsements” and will be added at the time the initial license is issued. No tests or coursework are required.

*Example: Rory holds Michigan licensure in K-9 Elementary Education, 5-8 Social Science and K-12 Art. Rory’s bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University is in elementary education. If she seeks Illinois licensure, she will provide a copy of her Michigan license, an official transcript from Michigan State showing a bachelor’s degree and major or 32 semester hours of coursework in one licensure area sought, and, ISBE form 80-02 (to verify completion of specific coursework and licensure tests as applicable.)*

*ISBE will review the documents and verify Illinois requirements are met for one area of her out-of-state license (in this case, elementary education). Once verified, Rory will be issued license endorsed in K-9 elementary education, 5-8 social science and K-12 visual arts.. Rory does not have to meet Illinois coursework or testing requirements for the 5-8 social science or K-12 visual arts endorsements since they are deemed subsequent endorsements and added via reciprocity.*

Per 21B-20 of statute, ISBE has the authority to determine what constitutes a comparable endorsement. Grade ranges may not always align perfectly, as grade spans differ from state-to-state. ISBE will determine the appropriate grade range by awarding educators the grade range in Illinois that is most comparable to the grade range held.

*Example: Lane holds a Nebraska license endorsed for K-5 elementary education and 5-9 middle school math. Neither of these grade ranges aligns to Illinois licensure grade ranges, so ISBE will issue the Illinois endorsements and grade ranges that are deemed comparable (which in this example are K-9 elementary education and 5-8 middle school math.)*

**4. If an educator received a K-12 endorsement via reciprocity (rather than completion of a K-12 approved program) can he or she later add an endorsement outside of the grade range of their approved program?**

Yes.

*Example: Christopher applied for Illinois licensure with a Connecticut license endorsed for K-9 elementary education and K-12 ESL. His degeed major/constructed major corresponds with elementary education, and he received the K-12 ESL endorsement on the basis of passing a Connecticut test. He received both endorsements on his Illinois license at the*



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*time of initial application. A few months later, Christopher applies for a 9-12 reading teacher endorsement. He is eligible to receive this endorsement upon evidence of meeting Illinois endorsement requirements (see 25.100 of Illinois Administrative Code) because his license is already endorsed through grade 12 in a teaching field.*

### **5. Will an out-of-state provisional license be honored as a “valid and comparable” license for a Professional Educator license (PEL) in Illinois?**

Yes, per 25.25(c): “a “valid certificate or license” means a certificate or license endorsed in the specific teaching field and grade levels for which Illinois licensure is sought that is equivalent to an educator license with stipulations endorsed for provisional educator or an Illinois professional educator license.”

### **6. What are the requirements to earn a PEL in a teaching or school support personnel area?**

- bachelor’s degree or higher from regionally-accredited institution including:
  - student teaching/internship (or applicable waiver),
  - major or 32 semester-hour constructed major that directly corresponds to the endorsement sought
- all licensure tests (out-of-state content tests and basics skills can be honored if used for licensure in another state.)
- edTPA (or applicable waiver)
- valid, comparable out-of-state license
- verification of coursework in content area reading, and reading, special education, and bilingual methods

### **7. What are the requirements to earn the PEL endorsed for principal or superintendent?**

The requirements are unchanged, except content tests from OOS can be honored if used for initial licensure in another state. Additionally, educators are not required to hold a license endorsed in a teaching field.



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### **8. What are the requirements to earn the PEL in other administrative areas (director of special education, chief school business official, teacher leader)?**

Requirements are unchanged, except an out-of-state content test used for initial licensure in another state can be honored for issuance of the chief school business official endorsement.

### **9. How will ISBE process applications from educators who complete middle grade programs out of state? Doesn't Illinois currently only issue secondary or elementary education endorsements on an initial PEL?**

Educators should select the applicable middle grade (5-8) endorsement when they apply for their license.

### **10. How will ISBE determine if an educator qualifies for a K-9 elementary education endorsement or a 1-6 elementary education endorsement?**

For application received through August 31, 2018, applicants who hold an elementary education endorsement will be issued the K-9 elementary education endorsement. After the K-9 endorsement sunsets September 1, 2018, all educators will receive a 1-6 elementary education endorsement.

### **11. What if an educator's content test used for initial licensure in other state does not perfectly align with the content test Illinois offers for the endorsement?**

*Example: Logan holds an out-of-state license endorsed for Psychology (9-12). He took a "General Social Science" content test to earn the endorsement; the test was not specific to psychology.*

ISBE will honor this test toward issuance of an initial professional educator license in Illinois since the test was utilized for issuance of that endorsement by the state in which it was issued.



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### **12. How will ISBE process an out-of-state educator's application for secondary education science or secondary education social science if the educator's license isn't specific to one content area? How will ISBE determine the comparable endorsement for the Illinois license?**

Per 21B-20, ISBE retains the authority to determine the Illinois endorsement that is most comparable to the OOS endorsement held. If ISBE needs clarification about the endorsement an educator is seeking, we will contact the educator.

### **13. If an educator holds two different grade ranges on their out-of-state license that used to be considered "full programs" in Illinois, how will these endorsements be processed?**

*Example: Luke holds a New York license endorsed for K-8 elementary education and K-12 special education. How will his license transfer to Illinois?*

ISBE would determine the comparable license to be K-9 elementary education and PK-21 Learning Behavior Specialist 1. The educator would only need to provide the following evidence for ONE of the endorsement areas:

- bachelor's degree or higher from regionally-accredited institution including:
  - student teaching/internship (or applicable waiver),
  - major or 32 semester hr. constructed major that directly corresponds to the license or endorsement sought
- all licensure tests (OOS content tests and basics skills may be honored if used for licensure in another state.)
- edTPA (or applicable waiver)
- valid, comparable OOS license
- verification of coursework in content area reading, and reading, special education, and bilingual methods

The other endorsement will be considered a subsequent endorsement and added on the basis of reciprocity.



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### **14. What endorsements will be issued on an ELS-PEDU (provisional license) if an educator does not qualify for a PEL?**

All comparable Illinois endorsements listed on the OOS license will be issued on the provisional license and will transfer to the PEL once full licensure requirements are met for one of the endorsement areas. Specific coursework requirements apply to the social science and science areas for issuance of the PEL.

### **15. In light of the elimination of the ten year validity period of licensure tests, will ISBE honor Illinois content tests that were previously used for Illinois endorsements before 2004?**

Yes, if deemed comparable to the endorsement sought.

### **16. Will out-of-state content tests be honored for subsequent endorsements?**

No. Out-of-state content tests can only be honored if they led to an **initial** out-of-state license and during the initial Illinois professional educator license. If an educator already holds an Illinois license and seeks to add a subsequent endorsement that does not require completion of a full program, he/she must meet Illinois requirements to earn the endorsement, including passing the applicable Illinois content test.

### **17. If an educator wants to be evaluated for an area that is not listed on his/her out-of-state license, how will the ISBE proceed?**

Upon or after applying for a license in Illinois, the educator will need to submit an additional application via ELIS and will be required to meet Illinois requirements for the endorsement, including passing the applicable Illinois content test. Educators will only be awarded endorsements that appear on their OOS license at the time of initial licensure evaluation.



**Educators Completing Illinois Educator Preparation Programs**

**18. How does the provisional license for in-state educators differ from the provisional license for out-of-state educators?**

Educators who receive initial licensure out-of-state can receive an ELS-PEDU (educator license with stipulations endorsed for provisional educator-OOS) upon providing verification of a bachelor's degree and a valid, comparable out-of-state educator license. The license is valid for one full fiscal year and can be extended for an additional fiscal year if the educator passed the applicable Illinois licensure tests. The license may be renewed for an additional two fiscal years by providing evidence to ISBE that the educator has not been employed on the license.

The ELS-PIDU (educator license with stipulations endorsed for provisional educator- In-state) can be issued through entitlement to educators who hold a bachelor's degree and have passed the applicable licensure tests, but have not yet passed the edTPA. The individual must meet a minimum score that has been approved by ISBE before receiving this license. The license is valid for one full fiscal year and cannot be renewed. Illinois candidates cannot waive the edTPA with one year of teaching experience, as the edTPA is required for initial teaching licensure. No ELS-PIDU shall be issued until a minimum edTPA score is established in Illinois Administrative Code.

**19. Can an in-state educator apply for the ELS-PIDU in ELIS?**

The ELS-PIDU must be entered via entitlement. Upon the entitlement being entered, the educator may apply for the entitlement in his or her ELIS account.

**20. If an educator who holds an ELS-PIDU (provisional educator in-state) and completes one year of teaching experience, can the edTPA be waived?**

No. Requirements for waiving the edTPA are only listed under 25.425, which is specific to out-of-state educators. The edTPA is required for program completion in Illinois (21B-30-f.) "Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher preparation programs



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in this state.....are required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education.”

### **21. Can out-of-state content tests be honored for subsequent endorsements?**

No. Out-of-state content tests can only be honored for initial licensure in Illinois and must have resulted in an out-of-state license. If an educator seeks to add a subsequent endorsement after initial licensure is earned, he/she must meet Illinois requirements to earn the endorsement, including passing the applicable Illinois content test.

### **22. If an educator completed a preparation program in Illinois several years ago and now wants to obtain initial licensure, how should he or she proceed?**

Educators should contact the institution of higher education where the preparation program was completed. The institution licensure officer will ensure the individual meet's today's licensure requirements and recommend (or entitle) the candidate for licensure. Alternatively, the educator could apply for licensure in another state and then seek licensure in Illinois based on their out-of-state license.





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### Examples of OOS Licenses Transferring to Illinois

OOS License/Endorsements Held	Comparable IL License/Endorsements To Be Issued (Now)	Comparable IL License/Endorsements To Be Issued On or After 9/1/2018  (K-9 no longer issued 9/1/2018)
Elementary Education K-9	Elementary Education K-9	Elementary Education 1-6
Elementary Education K-9 Social Science 5-8	Elementary Education K-9 5-8 social science	Elementary Education 1-6 Social Science 5-8
Elementary education 1-8 Special education K-12	Elementary education K-9 LBSI PK-21	Elementary Education 1-6 LBSI PK-21
Math 9-12 ESL K-12	Math 9-12 ESL K-12	Math 9-12 ESL K-12
Elementary education K-6	Elementary Education K-9	Elementary Education 1-6
Elementary education 1-8 Social science 5-8	Elementary Education K-9 Social Science 5-8	Elementary Education 1-6 Social Science 5-8
Math 9-12 English Language Arts 9-12	9-12 Math 9-12 English Language Arts	9-12 Math 9-12 English Language Arts
Math 9-12 Elementary education 1-6	Math 9-12 Elementary education K-9	Math 9-12 Elementary Education 1-6
Math 6-12	Math 6-8 Math 9-12	Math 5-8 Math 9-12
Social Science 6-9	Social Science 5-8	Social Science 5-8
Social Science 5-8	Social Science 5-8	Social Science 5-8



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OOS License/Endorsements Held	Comparable IL License/Endorsements To Be Issued (Now)	Comparable IL License/Endorsements To Be Issued On or After 9/1/2019  (B-3 no longer issued 9/1/2018)
Early Childhood Education (various grade ranges)	Early Childhood Education Birth through grade 3	Early Childhood Education Birth through grade 2