

## **Part 25 Educator Licensure Rule Update Webinar – FAQ Document**

**1. What will the new high school Science and Social Science endorsements look like in ELIS?**

The endorsements will remain the same in ELIS.

**2. Will Early Childhood course requirements completed during previous education be considered to meet the requirements?**

The educator would need to meet the requirements today for Early Childhood, which include 18 semester hours in the Early Childhood-specific distribution and the Early Childhood content exam. Any coursework that has been previously completed can be honored if it meets the requirements currently in place.

**3. Can the K-12 endorsements (Art, Physical Education, Music, etc.) be added with 18 hours and the applicable test?**

Yes, if the individual already holds a license endorsed in a teaching area and is adding the K-12 endorsement as a subsequent endorsement.

**4. Is a Middle Grades methods course required?**

Yes, in order to obtain a Middle Grades 5-8 endorsement, an educator must complete a content-specific methods course. However, the methods course does not have a semester hour requirement.

**5. Are there changes in the Technology Specialist endorsement?**

Yes, 18 semester hours of coursework and the content area test are required.

**6. Can a paraprofessional with an associate degree substitute teach?**

An educator who holds a valid educator license (for example, a paraprofessional license with an associate degree) on file can serve as a short-term substitute.

**7. Can the coursework take place at any college/university?**

The coursework must be completed through a regionally accredited institution.

**8. Will individuals who received a deficiency letter under the old rules now receive an updated deficiency letter to reflect the new rules?**

Educators will receive an updated deficiency letter when new documentation is placed on file in ELIS. An educator may email [licensure@isbe.net](mailto:licensure@isbe.net) if he/she would like a re-evaluation under the new Part 25 requirements.

**9. Can an educator still carry over professional development April 1 – June 30 on the next renewal cycle if it's not needed in the current renewal cycle?**

Yes, educators have been able to carry over unused professional development hours completed between April 1 and June 30 of the final years of their renewal cycle to the next five-year renewal cycle since April 1, 2017. Educators should not record unused professional development in ELIS until July 1 of the next renewal cycle so the system will accurately carry it over. You may email [renewal@isbe.net](mailto:renewal@isbe.net) with any renewal questions.

**10. Is the coursework required to be upper division or 100 level and above?**

Generally speaking, all coursework must be 100 level and above. Course numbering differs among institutions of higher education.

**11. Is the methods course included in the 18 content area hours for the Middle Grades endorsements?**

The methods course is included in the overall 18 semester hours of coursework for the Middle Grades endorsement.

**12. What are the requirements for adding a Senior High endorsement when an educator has a Middle Grades endorsement?**

An educator would need to complete 18 semester hours of coursework in the specific content area, including a content area methods, and pass the applicable test.

**13. What changes are being looked at for ELS-CTE and ELS-CTEP, and will the testing be required for the ELS-CTE renewal still be needed?**

The testing requirement for renewal is required for an ELS-CTE license if the license was issued on or after January 1, 2015. This also applies to the ELS-CTEP (Provisional CTE license). The ELS-PCTE (Part-time Provisional CTE license) does not require testing, so this will just be a renewal application submitted at the time of renewal. All renewals will be required to submit a renewal application and a separate registration application. We are looking into changes for these licenses, but at this time, no changes have been made and will likely not be in place in time for fiscal year 2020 renewal.

**14. Can current teachers add subsequent teaching endorsements to their Professional Educator License (PEL) based on coursework taken 20 years ago?**

Yes. The educator would need to apply for the applicable endorsement and ensure the required transcripts are submitted to their ELIS account for review.

**15. Will reciprocity be allowed for out-of-state licenses that are in initial status, similar to how Illinois used to issue licenses several years ago?**

We will still have reciprocity for both the initial issuance of the Professional Educator License and subsequent endorsements. Part 25 changes require that an out-of-state license must be comparable to the Professional Educator License. This means that we cannot honor licenses such as charter school, temporary, residency, provisional, etc. Tiered licenses that are comparable to Illinois' previous "initial" certificate will be honored. Please note that some states use different terminology for their licenses. We will ensure that out-of-state licenses are comparable to the Professional Educator License prior to accepting them.

**16. Will the World Language endorsement allow a teacher to teach any language?**

The language designation will still exist. It is a name change **only**. For example, "Foreign Language-Spanish" will now be listed as "World Language-Spanish."

**17. What would a 6-12 English Language Arts teacher need to complete to obtain a Physical Education endorsement?**

Please see the subsequent teaching endorsement section of our website for requirements. Physical Education is offered at several grade levels, which have separate requirements.

**18. Are Social Science designation endorsements still available?**

Yes, they are still available.

**19. When can I apply under the new requirements?**

An educator can start applying immediately to be evaluated under the new requirements.

**20. Will World Language endorsement still be PK-12?**

Yes, the World Language endorsement will be issued as PK-12.

**21. Has the testing requirement for endorsements changed? For example, if an educator has 32 hours of Math can he/she receive the endorsement without the test?**

No, an educator must complete the applicable content area test.

**22. How do the Part 25 changes apply to teachers in private schools?**

Our department handles educator licensure for public schools and recognized nonpublic schools in Illinois. If a private school requires educators to hold a specific endorsement, the educators must meet these new requirements to add the endorsement.

**23. What if an out-of-state PEL application does not have an out-of-state license? Is the evaluation date when the 80-02 is submitted rather than out-of-state license?**

The requirements for an initial PEL application with an 80-02 on file have not changed.

**24. Will an educator who completes 18 semester hours in Chemistry be able to teach all science areas except honors or AP?**

Correct, an educator could still teach all science areas except honors or AP.

**25. Will all applicable tests be adjusted to reflect World Language?**

Yes, all applicable tests will be updated.

**26. What is a BPS endorsement?**

“BPS” is the code that is used in ELIS for teachers of students who are blind or visually impaired (PK-21).

**27. What exam would be required for a Middle Grades 5-8 endorsement if there is no specific Middle Grades test?**

The core areas all require the Middle Grades test. All other Middle Grades endorsements will require the Senior High test.

**28. What if an educator does not want a re-evaluation under the new Part 25 requirements because it will not benefit them?**

All deficient applications will be updated accordingly to the educator’s benefit. Educators may reach out to us (or to their Regional Offices of Education) with questions about their specific situation and we will work with the educator accordingly.