

James T. Meeks, Chairman

Tony Smith, Ph.D.,  
State Superintendent of  
Education

January 2016  
Volume 2, Issue 1

## Inside this Issue

- 1 NEW YEAR
- 2 ENTITLEMENT
- 3 ACT
- 3 TESTING
- 3 ISBE SPOTLIGHT
- 3 PRESCHOOL TEACHERS
- 3 SENATE BILL 706
- 4 ESL/BILINGUAL ENDORSEMENTS
- 4 ESL/BILINGUAL Q & A



Illinois State Board of Education  
100 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777  
IHE #: 217-782-7091  
Fax: 217-524-1289  
[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)



# PREPARATION POINTS

ILLINOIS STATE  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

*Center for Educator Effectiveness*

## NEW YEAR

*Jason Helfer*

Happy New Year and greetings as we begin 2016! We start this New Year with greater clarity, a greater determination to succeed and a renewed commitment to provide exceptional service to educators in Illinois. We ask that our relationship continues to grow and strengthen through communication and support.

We head into 2016 with an increased staff that is anxiously ready and prepared to assist you. Our hope is to establish clear lines of communication to assist institutions of higher education and their students to succeed in their pursuit of licensure.

### *Forte Secure Web Pay*

ISBE will no longer be collecting application fees; instead, a third party website (Forte) will be collecting the fees on ISBE's behalf (similar to PayPal). Navigating the Web Pay process has changed only subtly, and educators should use the following number if they experience difficulties with the payment process.

Forte Payment Processing Customer  
Service: 1-866-290-5400

### *ISBE Correspondence*

Please use the following emails when sending documents to ISBE. Candidates/Educators may also be advised to use the appropriate email. These email accounts are checked daily and for efficiency should be used instead of postal mail/fax when applicable. This process can expedite the documentation upload into an ELIS account and conserves our ever-growing carbon footprint.

#### **roe@isbe.net**

- ❖ This email is designed for ROEs to submit rushes, experience verification, updates for pending applications or any other questions/documents.

#### **licensureforms@isbe.net**

- ❖ This email is designed for Institutions of Higher Education to submit state-approved program forms (80-02), updates for pending applications or any other documentation for an ELIS account.

#### **licensure@isbe.net**

- ❖ This email is designed for educators to submit documents that need to be

*Continued on Page 2*

uploaded into their ELIS account; *Examples below:*

- OOS License
- Email Requests
- Course Descriptions
- Name Change

#### **transcripts@isbe.net**

- ❖ This email is designed for institutions of higher education to submit official transcripts on behalf of the educator.

### *Peer Review*

#### **ECE Review Team**

ISBE continues to invite members to be part of the peer review teams for Early Childhood Education (B-Grade 2) program proposals.

Reviewers should be familiar with the new ECE standards and be willing to devote time for reviewing up to one proposal per month until all new program proposals have been received. Reviewers will undergo training with ISBE staff this spring that will prepare them to adequately evaluate the ECE proposals.

Please notify Emily Fox ([efox@isbe.net](mailto:efox@isbe.net)) via email with names of reviewers you recommend or if you are interested in being part of the review team.

## **Entitlement**

It is the responsibility of the Licensure Officer to ensure the candidates have met all requirements for entitlement per Illinois School Code 105 ILCS 5/21B-100. ELIS has a safeguard that will flag candidates and prevent their license from issuing if required testing and degrees are not on file. Listed below are a few reminders as you entitle students.

- ❖ Enter the conferred date when entering the degree.
- ❖ Review testing to ensure candidates have a test of basic skills, content test and edTPA score (if applicable) entered in their ELIS account.
- ❖ Refrain from entitling candidates with improper grade ranges. If you have a question about grade ranges for endorsement, please email your ISBE consultant prior to entitlement.
- ❖ Upload transcript showing degree conferred date. (*preferred, but not required*)

### *Reminders*

Candidates that apply preemptively for entitlement have two options:

- 1) They may choose to expire out their current application for licensure by completing form [80-05](#). Once the application is removed from their ELIS account, the institution may then enter the entitlement.
  - a. These educators will not get a refund for the application they wish to expire.
- 2) They may choose to go through ISBE evaluation. The application is processed in the order it is received.

We encourage you to continue to instruct your candidates to refrain from applying for a license until after entitlement. Additionally, please continue to utilize the “pre-completion” status option for your candidates’ entitlement notifications.

## ISBE CLOSINGS:

**January 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**February 12<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**February 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

## **ILLINOIS STATE EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND LICENSURE BOARD MEETINGS**

**January 8<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**9:00am-4:00pm**

Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777  
Fourth Floor, Board Room

**February 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**9:00am-4:00pm**

Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, IL 62777  
Fourth Floor, Board Room

*The Illinois State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board (SEPLB) supports a system of preparing and certifying (licensing) teachers, administrators and school service personnel that reflect the highest standards and best practices to meet the educational needs of every child in the State of Illinois.*

***For prior SEPLB meeting agendas and minutes [click here.](#)***

## **ACT**

The Illinois State Board of Education will accept a 16 or higher on the writing portion of ACT exams taken September 1, 2015 or later. The cut score of 16 was recommended by ACT per a data analysis from previous ACT tests to establish concordance between the current and

former ACT writing scores. The score was approved by the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2015. The required composite score will remain the same (22.)

Tests taken prior to September 1, 2015 will still need to have the combined English/writing score of 19 and a composite score of 22 to be considered “passing.”

## Testing

### *ELED Test (197-200)*

Pearson is opening a window for candidates to pilot the new elementary education test. The pilot test is offered from 2/8-3/4/2016. Participation in a pilot test is an excellent opportunity for candidates to view test questions that may appear on future test forms and practice their test-taking skills. While the test is not broken up into the four categories, it is a **120 minute** multiple choice test offering questions in each area.

#### **Pilot Test Participants**

To be eligible to participate, examinees must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- ❖ Be a junior, senior or graduate student currently enrolled in an educator preparation program and preparing for educator certification/licensure at the elementary level, or,
- ❖ Be a practicing educator recently certified/licensed at the elementary level with no more than 3 years teaching experience.

*Note: College and university faculty members are NOT eligible to take pilot tests for the ILTS program.*

#### **Pilot Test Incentives**

Participants will receive their choice of a **\$75 ILTS test fee voucher** or a **\$50 Barnes & Noble eGift Card** for each test form completed as instructed. Vouchers may be applied towards future ILTS testing fees. (ILTS test vouchers cannot be used towards test fees in other testing programs.) **Participants may take up to two (2) test forms and can earn up to \$150 in test fee vouchers OR up to \$100 in Barnes & Noble eGift Cards.**

**Starting January 25 students can register at:**

[www.pearsonvue.com/espilot](http://www.pearsonvue.com/espilot).

For further information, contact Rachel Roy by phone (866-613-3279) or by email at: [evaluationsystemscrg@pearson.com](mailto:evaluationsystemscrg@pearson.com).

#### *Test Validity*

The following tests are valid indefinitely:

- ❖ Test of Basic Skills
- ❖ ACT & SAT (in lieu of TAP)

The following tests are valid for 10 years:

- ❖ Content Tests
- ❖ APT
- ❖ edTPA

*Institutions can honor Out-Of-State Tests of Basic Skills if ISBE has entered the information in ELIS.*

## Preschool Teachers

### *Reminder*

By July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, all individuals assigned to provide instruction to students in pre-school programs must hold an ESL or Bilingual endorsement (as applicable depending on assignment). *Per 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 228, Section 228.35.*

## Senate Bill 706

### *Background Checks*

[PA 99-021](#) became effective on January 1, 2016. Pursuant to this Public Act, each student teacher (defined to include those completing required internships) is required, prior to starting a student teaching or required internship experience, to authorize and pay for the school or school district where the student teaching is to be completed to conduct a fingerprint-based criminal history records check of that individual. The school or school district must also complete checks of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and the Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database for each student teacher. The student teacher must be provided a copy of records obtained as a result of the fingerprint-based criminal history records check. This requirement applies to student teachers placed both in public school districts and in non-public recognized schools.

*If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please email Cristina “Tina” Dimmitt-Salinas ([cdimmitt@isbe.net](mailto:cdimmitt@isbe.net))*



# ISBE SPOTLIGHT

## Meet Kristi Reller

Welcome to our ISBE preparation staff Kristi Reller!!

Kristi comes to us as an experienced veteran teacher after serving for the past 17 years as a social science teacher at V.I.T High School in rural western Illinois. She has mentored numerous student teachers in her classroom through Western Illinois University’s teacher education program. Kristi is an adjunct history instructor for Spoon River College. She rounds out her experience having served as a content evaluator with Pearson.

Kristi has a passion for coaching; at V.I.T High School she coached basketball and softball. After recently moving to Athens with her husband and 12 year old son, Kristi continues this passion. She currently coaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls’ basketball at Athens and assists the Athens High School Varsity Girls Basketball program.

We are so excited to have Kristi join our staff!

Please see the table for a redistribution of IHE assignments among our liaisons.

	Email	Office
Amy	acosgrif@isb.net	217-557-9614
Kristi	kreller@isbe.net	217-557-6763
Seth	smernaug@isbe.net	217-782-9745
Tina	cdimmit@isbe.net	217-782-7485

Tina	Seth
Aurora University	Augustana College
Columbia College Chicago	Benedictine University
Eastern Illinois University	Chicago School of Professional Psychology
Elmhurst College	Concordia University
Erikson Institute	Greenville College
Governors State University	Lake Forest College
Hebrew Theological College	MacMurray College
Illinois Institute of Technology	Millikin University
Illinois Wesleyan University	Monmouth College
McKendree University	New Leaders
Northwestern University	North Central College
Olivet Nazarene University	Northeastern Illinois University
Relay Graduate School of Education	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville	Trinity Christian College
	University of Illinois at Springfield
Amy	Kristi
Blackburn College	Bradley University
Chicago State University	DePaul University
Dominican University	Eureka College
Judson University	Illinois College
Kendall College	Illinois State University
Lewis University	Loyola University Chicago
Northern Illinois University	Knox College
North Park University	National Louis University
Quincy University	Roosevelt University
Rockford University	School of the Art Institute of Chicago
St. Xavier University	University of Chicago
Trinity International University	University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	University of St. Francis
VanderCook College of Music	Wheaton College
Western Illinois University	

# ESL/BILINGUAL ENDORSEMENTS

When an educator is evaluated for an ESL or Bilingual endorsement through ISBE, our evaluators employ the following practices:

**ESL Endorsement:** Evaluator will honor clinical hours in an ESL or bilingual setting. Bilingual instruction requires incorporating ESL instruction during part of the day.

**Bilingual Endorsement:** Evaluators will honor clinical hours in a bilingual setting.

Teachers who have 100 clock hours in a bilingual setting may use the hours for ESL and bilingual endorsements.

A university may elect to require 100 clock hours in an ESL setting for an ESL Endorsement and 100 clock hours in a bilingual setting for a Bilingual Endorsement. The university could require 200 clock hours to receive both endorsements, but ISBE will only require 100 clock hours total if the experience was gained in a bilingual classroom.

## ESL and Bilingual Questions & Answers

**Q: What does ISBE consider a bilingual setting?**

**A:** A Transitional Bilingual Program is implemented at the time that 20 or more EL students of the same language background attend a given school. There are many ways to implement such a TBE program; some are in self-contained classrooms (all students are ELs), while other options involve classes with monolingual students. Our Division of English Language Learning is preparing a framework of delivery services to illustrate all these possibilities.

**Q: How does ISBE define an ESL classroom?**

**A:** *Per 23 Illinois Administrative Code, Part 228, Section 228.10.*

*"English as a Second Language" or "ESL" means specialized instruction designed to assist students whose home language is other than English in attaining English language proficiency. ESL instruction includes skills development in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. (ESL should not be confused with English language arts as taught to students whose home language is English.)*

**Q: What requirements or endorsements does the cooperating teacher need to have in a Bilingual classroom?**

**A:** *In a Bilingual classroom, implemented through co-teaching, at least one of the teachers has to have a bilingual education endorsement for the language of the students.*

**Q: Is an ESL classroom defined by the number of ESL students?**

**A:** *No, an ESL classroom is defined by the purpose of the instruction, similar to a math or a science classroom.*

**Q: Is an ESL classroom defined by the endorsement held by a teacher?**

**A:** *No; however, an ESL class needs to be taught by a teacher endorsed for ESL, the same way a math class needs to be taught by a math endorsed instructor.*

**Q: Is an ESL classroom defined as a pull-out or a regular classroom?**

**A:** *There are different models to deliver ESL. However, the method of delivery does not define the classroom. The purpose of instruction as is the case with any other classroom, defines the classroom.*

**Q: Does the school need to classify the classroom as ESL?**

**A:** *The district must provide ESL instruction to EL students according to their proficiency level and other needs as required in Part 22.*

**Q: Does the teacher need to know another language to teach ESL?**

**A:** *The instruction is in English, and children from all backgrounds (i.e. Poland, Mexico, China) are all in the same classroom. ESL is not language specific.*

**Q: Does the teacher need to know another language to teach in a Bilingual Classroom?**

**A:** *The Teacher must be fluent in a foreign language. Part of the day is instruction in English, but part of the day is instruction of core subjects in the children's native language.*



**Illinois State Board of Education  
100 North First Street  
Springfield, Illinois 62777  
IHE #: 217-782-7091  
Fax: 217-524-1289  
[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)**