



Illinois State Board of Education

Center for Educator Effectiveness

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James T. Meeks,
Chairman

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

PREPARATION POINTS

WE SUPPORT YOU

Jason Helfer

As much as we may yearn for an endless summer, the long hot days are getting shorter, and back-to-school advertisements abound. Fall is fast approaching. As students, teachers, and administrators look ahead to the buzz of another new school year, we at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) echo the excitement of all at the institutions we serve as you open your hearts, minds, and classrooms to new and familiar faces. Our agency wishes you a fulfilling and successful fall semester, and, as always, is here to support and assist you as we all embark upon the promise of the new school year.

EDUCATOR LICENSURE INFORMATION SYSTEM (ELIS)

Compatible Browsers

When advising candidates, please ensure you recommend using a MAC, PC, or laptop using Internet Explorer, Safari, or a Firefox web browser. ISBE does not recommend

any other web browsers with the ELIS system.

Deficiency Letters

In June, our division launched newly designed deficiency letters. The redesigned letters use a format that is clear, consistent, and easily navigable. If educators have questions regarding their deficiency letters, please refer them to our Call Center at (217) 557-6763.

TESTING

SAT

On June 16, 2016, the State Board approved the following cut scores for the new SAT.

- 1110 (evidence-based reading and writing, and mathematics)
- 26 (writing and language)

The above scores apply to SATs taken March 5, 2016, or later. The SAT format changed on this date. Tests taken under the old format that achieved the state's previous passing scores (1030 [critical reading + math] and 450 [writing]) will still be honored.

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SAT/ISBE Code

On July 22, 2016 the College Board Code 6773 was assigned to the Illinois State Board of Education. This code was created for individuals to use when requesting scores be sent directly to ISBE. Using this code will expedite the process of SAT score upload into educators' ELIS accounts.

Elementary Education (701) Test

Also, on June 16, 2016, the State Board approved the following cut scores for the new Elementary Education (grade 1-6) tests.

- Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197): A score of 30
- Subtest 2: Mathematics (198): A score of 28
- Subtest 3: Science and Social Science (199): A score of 26
- Subtest 4: Fine Arts, Physical Development and Health (200): A score of 21

The new Elementary Education (701) test is designed in a similar way as the TAP. To obtain an "overall" passing score on the Elementary Education (701) test, an individual must pass all four subsections of the test, which are listed above. An educator can register for one subtest at a time or multiple subtests at a time. As with the TAP, an individual will only need to retake the subtests that they fail. Once all subtests are passed, the educator will earn an overall passing score on the Elementary Education (701) test.

Click here to find previous issues of Preparation Points.

ACT

The redesigned ACT has undergone another revision. The writing test, rubrics, and domains on which the rubrics are based have not changed. This is simply a change in score reporting. Upon last year's revision of the writing score, ACT's conversion caused some confusion, as individuals would often attempt to interpret scores by comparing them to their multiple choice question scores. To reduce this confusion, the writing score will be reported on the average of the four (2-12) domain scores on the essay portion of the test.

On September 9, 2016, SEPLB will vote on a new cut score for the writing portion of the redesigned ACT. If approved, this score will be presented to the State Board for approval. Below is the progression of approved scores.

- Prior to September 1, 2015:
 - Composite Score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 19 on the Combined English/Writing portion.
- September 1, 2015 and later:
 - Composite Score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 16 on the Writing portion.
- **Proposed:** 9/9/16 and later:
 - Composite Score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 6 on the Writing portion.

For more information about the change click [here](#).

ILLINOIS LICENSURE TESTING SYSTEM (ILTS)

Financial Aid Vouchers

In September, Evaluation Systems group of Pearson will distribute its annual total of 4,000 \$25.00 Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) financial aid vouchers. The vouchers will be sent directly to institution contacts via e-mail. Quantities are calculated based on Title II program completion data, and institutions may distribute voucher codes to candidates at their discretion.

- Vouchers can be used toward ILTS exam fees. Each code expires one year from date of issue.
- Vouchers may not be used for the edTPA.

Questions: es-ilts@pearson.com

Webinars

The Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) will host the following webinars:

Results Analyzer Training for Illinois Faculty (invitation only):

- Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 9:00-10:00 a.m. CST
- Thursday, September 8, 2016, 12:30-1:30 p.m. CST

Questions: es-ilts@pearson.com

Preparing to Retake an ILTS Exam (Candidate Webinar):

- Thursday, September 15, 2016, 9:00-10:00 a.m. CST
- Friday, September 16, 2016, 12:30-1:30 p.m. CST

Candidates should watch for information posted under “Important Announcements” section on the ILTS website:
<https://www.il.nesinc.com/>

IMPORTANT DATES

Alternative Certification

Any candidate who completed an old alternative program (one-year-program) must have completed their coursework before January 1, 2016, and be entitled on or before September 30, 2016.

Superintendent

No candidate shall be admitted to an “old” Superintendent endorsement program after August 31, 2016. Candidates who enroll in an old superintendent program prior to August 31, 2016, shall complete the program and have the endorsement issued no later than September 1, 2019.

Beginning September 1, 2016, institutions or not-for-profit entities may admit new candidates only to Superintendent Preparation Programs that have been approved under Part 33.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Over the summer Educator Licensure has ramped up our social media presence. We post weekly on Facebook and Twitter regarding various education topics. Our posts are gradually reaching larger audiences, but have already had over 4,000 views over the past few weeks! Please encourage all teacher candidates to follow, like, and share our ISBE posts and tweets! With a large focus on social media, this opens a new option for

communication between our agency and the field.

Facebook:

- Illinois State Board of Education

Twitter:

- ILStateBoardofEd
@ISBEnews
- IL Supt. Tony Smith
@ISBESupt

PROPOSED RULES AND AMENDMENTS

Rules undergoing amendments are found here. As Rules are proposed and amended, this webpage provides a summary of the Rules, a medium for public comment, and status updates when Rules are filed and adopted.

The following Administrative Rules have been filed and became effective August 9, 2016. Final posting is pending.

- Part 1 (Public Schools Evaluation, Recognition and Supervision)
- Proposed Amendments for Part 27 (Standards for Endorsements in Specific Teaching Fields)
- Part 20 (Standards for Endorsements in Elementary Education)
- Part 25 (Educator Licensure)
- Part 26 (Standards for Endorsements in Early Childhood Education and in Elementary Education)

We encourage all institutions to familiarize themselves with the changes. Currently ISBE preparation staff is in the process of crafting a detailed summary of the amendments made to the above parts of rule. Once the summary is finalized, it will be

ISBE CLOSINGS:

Labor Day
Monday, September 5, 2016

ILLINOIS STATE EDUCATOR PREPARATION AND LICENSURE BOARD MEETINGS

September 9, 2016
9:00am-4:00pm

October 7, 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](#).

emailed to all institutions of higher education, stakeholders and partners.

The following Administrative Rules have undergone public comment and adoption is pending:

- Part 30 (Programs for the Preparation of Principals in Illinois)
- Part 33 (Programs for the Preparation of Superintendents in Illinois)
- Part 235 (Early Childhood Block Grant)

To check on the status of any item where the comment period has already ended, send an inquiry to rules@isbe.net.

LICENSURE OFFICER REMINDERS

Pre-Completion Status

As candidates begin this fall, we encourage all licensure officers to ensure their candidates are entered into “pre-completion” (PC) status. This status will prevent educators from preemptively applying in ELIS prior to entitlement. ELIS will not allow a licensure officer to enter an entitlement if an application already exists on their ELIS account for the same area. It is best practice for licensure officers to utilize PC status to prevent duplicate applications, the transfer of fees, and delays in obtaining licensure.

Transcript Audits

When evaluating transfer credit for candidates in an educator preparation program, licensure officers should ensure that all professional education and content-area coursework required for the issuance of an Illinois license, endorsement or approval have been passed with a “C” or equivalent.

Student Teaching

Prior to entering student teaching, all candidates must successfully pass a test of basic skills and content test. These tests must be reflected in a candidate’s ELIS account under the “Testing” section before the candidate may begin student teaching.

edTPA

Plagiarism

In the event an edTPA participant has been suspected of plagiarism, Pearson notifies ISBE and the associated institution of higher education (IHE) that EdTPA scores are voided and cannot be used for licensure. The educator may retake the edTPA at the discretion of his/her institution of higher education. Institutions should consult their internal policies regarding plagiarism or cheating to determine if the candidate is eligible to re-take the assessment. Institutions must share their decision with ISBE via a formal letter or emailed letter sent to their ISBE preparation consultant. ISBE will honor the decision of the institution of higher education.

If your institution does not yet have an established policy specific to the edTPA, please begin this discussion. In the future, ISBE plans to require institutions to have a policy in place that is specific to handling edTPA plagiarism cases.



ISBE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Louise “Bess” Johnson

Bess is originally from Springfield, Missouri. She attended Missouri State University where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English Literature and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Bess is a credentialed Developmental

Therapist and Evaluator with Early Intervention. Before beginning her employment in the Educator Licensure Division, she evaluated and provided ongoing developmental therapy for children, aged birth to three years old, experiencing developmental delays. Prior to her work with Early Intervention, she served as a Paraprofessional with Williamsville School District, instructing children in a special education classroom, and providing academic and overall developmental instruction.

Bess lives in Springfield, IL with her husband, Dan Johnson, and two daughters, Grace, 7 years old, and Natalie, 11 years old. She enjoys spending time with her husband and children, family, and friends. In her free time she likes to go to movies, read, and exercise.

Bess has dedicated most of her career in education to working with families and children with special needs. She has always had a passion for higher education and enjoys learning new things as well as encouraging people of all ages to continue their education and discover their niche.

We are excited to have Bess as part of our preparation team!

Bess will absorb the responsibility of overseeing the institutions of higher education that were originally assigned to Kristi Reller. Kristi has accepted a special education teaching position in Athens, IL. We wish Kristi the best of luck in her new position!

If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please email:

Tina Dimmitt-Salinas at cdimmitt@isbe.net



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