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Illinois Bilingual and ESL Certification

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Illinois State Board of Education

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Overview

- Transitional Bilingual Certificate (Type 29)
- Assessments required for Bilingual Teachers
- Special (Type 10) ESL/ENL Certificate
- Visiting International Teacher Certificate
- Letters of Approval
 - *ESL
 - *Bilingual
 - *Bilingual or ESL Special Education
- Endorsements (ESL, Bilingual, and ENL)
- Certificate and Approval Application Procedures
- Colleges and Universities Offering ESL and Bilingual Coursework
- Short-term Authorization for Otherwise Unfilled Position

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Transitional Bilingual Certificate Requirements

- Hold a degree from an institution of higher learning in the U.S. or abroad.
- Hold another type of teaching certificate (Substitute Certificate is acceptable) if educated in U.S.
- Prove language proficiency in the target language and English.

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Transitional Bilingual Certificate (Type 29 Certificate)

- The Transitional Bilingual Certificate is a **temporary** teaching certificate.
- The certificate is valid for six fiscal years and may be renewed once for two additional fiscal years.
- During this time, the teacher must complete the requirements for an elementary, secondary, early childhood, or special teaching certificate.

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Transitional Bilingual Teachers

- If the teacher wants to continue teaching in a bilingual or ESL setting, the teacher must also complete the approval requirements within 8 fiscal years.
- Teachers holding a Transitional Bilingual Certificate may teach in a **K-12 bilingual** setting and/or a **K-6 ESL** setting.

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Determining Language Testing Required for Type 29 Certificate

- Applicants must prove proficiency in English and the target language sought.
- The medium of instruction of the university where the applicant's degree is from determines what testing is required.
- Testing is not required if the applicant graduated from institutions where English and the target language were the medium of instruction.

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Bilingual Assessments

- Assess speaking, reading comprehension, writing, and grammar;
- Assess knowledge of the types of language needed by a bilingual teacher for communicative functioning in everyday situations, including those that are likely to arise while working with professional colleagues, students, and parents.

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Bilingual Assessments Offered

- English Language Proficiency (ELP) test and
- There are currently 19 Target Language Proficiency (TLP) tests. Several tests have been created recently due to increased demand for bilingual teachers in new target languages. The current Target Language Proficiency tests include the following:

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Bilingual Assessments Offered

Arabic	Filipino	Korean	Serbian
Assyrian	Greek	Lao	Spanish
Bosnian	Gujarati	Mandarin	Urdu
Bulgarian	Hindi	Polish	Vietnamese
Cantonese	Japanese	Russian	

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Testing in Other Low-Incidence Languages

- If a target language proficiency (TLP) test is not offered by our testing company, then
- Contact Laurie Gibler in the Educator Certification Division at lgibler@isbe.net
- Arrangements will be attempted to provide testing in the low-incident target language.

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Administration Dates for the Bilingual Assessments

- The TLP – Spanish and ELP tests are currently offered 5 times during the year.
- TLP tests in the low-incidence languages are currently offered three times during the year.
- *Applicants must register for these assessments on-line at <http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/testing.htm>*

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ELP and TLP – Spanish Assessments

- Approximately 55 multiple-choice test questions to assess reading comprehension;
- Written constructed-response assignment to assess written expression; and
- Speaking constructed-response assignment to assess oral expression.

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TLP (Low Incidence Language) Assessments

- Two reading passages with some constructed-response items;
- Written constructed-response assignment to assess written expression; and
- Speaking constructed-response assignment to assess oral expression.

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Special (Type 10) Certificate Endorsed in ESL or ENL

Teachers may apply for a Special Certificate endorsed in ESL or ENL if they

- Either hold a comparable certificate from another state or country or have completed a comparable approved program in another state;
- They must meet the professional education requirements for a Type 10 certificate and have completed 32 semester hours of coursework in ESL/ENL.
- They also must successfully pass the basic skills, ENL, and APT – Special assessments.

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Special Certificate Endorsed in ENL

- Currently SIU – Carbondale is the only university with an approved K-12 ENL program.
- However, several other Illinois colleges and universities have discussed their intention to develop this program, and we have applicants from outside of Illinois who have completed K-12 ESL (or ENL) programs.

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Visiting International Teacher Certificate

- Issued to foreign trained teachers participating in state approved international exchange program;
- Valid for 3 years;
- Non-renewable; and
- Must have demonstrated English proficiency through ISBE specified testing.

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Visiting International Teacher Certificate

- Teachers recruited for this program must be interviewed and tested in their home country.
- Districts wanting to recruit these teachers should contact DELL regarding information about upcoming recruitment dates.

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Visiting International Teacher Certificate

- The VIT teachers are qualified to teach the same subjects/grade levels as those in their home country;
- They may obtain bilingual endorsement; and
- May obtain foreign/world language endorsement based upon the medium of instruction of the university where the applicant obtained his/her degree.

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Visiting International Teacher Certificate

- Certificate categories:
- Early Childhood (Type 54)
- Elementary (Type 53)
- Secondary (Type 59)
- Special (Type 50)

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Visiting International Teacher Certificate

- Submit ISBE 73-03F;
- District Superintendent must complete Part II of application;
- Must enclose original foreign credentials evaluation completed by ISBE approved agency; and
- Must include English language proficiency evaluation results.

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ESL/Bilingual Approval Requirements

- Complete 18 semester hours of either ESL or Bilingual coursework (in the required areas);
- Complete 100 clock hours or 3 months of teaching experience in an ESL or Bilingual program; and
- Hold an Elementary, Secondary, Early Childhood, or Special Certificate.

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ESL Approval Coursework Requirements

- Linguistics;
- Theoretical Foundations of Teaching ESL;
- Assessment of the Bilingual Student;
- Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL;
- Cross-cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English Proficient Students; and
- An elective (to total 18 semester hours).

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Bilingual Approval Coursework Requirements

- Foundations of Bilingual Education;
- Assessment of the Bilingual Student;
- Methods and Materials for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students in Bilingual Programs;
- Cross-cultural Studies for Teaching Limited-English-Proficient Students;
- Methods and Materials for Teaching ESL; and
- An elective (to total 18 semester hours).

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Bilingual/Special Education Approval

- Hold a Special Education Certificate or a Special Education Approval;
- Complete the language proficiency assessment in the target language;
- Complete a Theoretical Foundations of Bilingual/ESL course;
- Complete a LEP methods course; and
- Complete Assessment of the Bilingual Student course; **OR**

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Bilingual/Special Education Approval

- Hold a Standard Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, or Special Certificate with an ESL or Bilingual Approval;
- Complete LBS1 characteristics and methods courses; and
- Complete a psychological diagnosis course for exceptional students; **OR**

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Bilingual/Special Education Approval

- Hold a Transitional Bilingual Certificate and have two years of successful teaching experience;
- Complete LBS1 methods and characteristics courses;
- Complete survey of the exceptional student; and
- Complete theoretical foundations and assessment of the bilingual student courses; **OR**

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Bilingual/Special Education Approval

- Hold a School Service Personnel Certificate;
- Successfully complete the bilingual language exam; and
- Complete the Assessment of the Bilingual Student course.

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Endorsements (ESL, Bilingual, and English as a New Language)

- Applicants may submit an endorsement application (form 73-52) if they hold an Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, or Special Certificate.
- A \$30 fee is required for any endorsement application.
- Applicants may apply for only one endorsement/grade level per endorsement application.

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Endorsements (ESL and Bilingual)

ESL and bilingual endorsements may be added to:

- Primary level on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Special Certificates;
- Middle grade level on Elementary, Secondary, and Special Certificates; and
- High school level on Secondary and Special Certificates.

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Endorsements (ESL and Bilingual)

- The requirements for the ESL and Bilingual endorsement for any of the grade levels is the same as for the approval, except at the middle grade level.
- All middle grade endorsements require six semester hours of coursework in middle grade education.

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ENL Endorsement

- An endorsement in English as a New Language (ENL) may only be added at the high school level.
- The requirements for the ENL endorsement include 24 semester hours of coursework in ENL (ESL and bilingual coursework) **and** the ENL test or 32 semester hours of coursework in ENL.

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ENL Endorsement

- Applicants may receive an ENL endorsement with no specific designation. This allows them to teach in an ESL setting.
- In order to receive an ENL endorsement with a language designation, the applicant must complete the coursework **and** pass the appropriate target language proficiency test. This allows them to teach in a bilingual setting.

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Certificate Application Procedures

- Option A: Electronic Route
- Go to the Educator Certification System (ECS) page at www.isbe.net/ECS
- Follow directions using an established private account or set up a new account
- Limitations for this type of application

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Certificate Application Procedures

- Option B: Customary Route

Locate appropriate Regional Office of Education (ROE) and submit:

- Completed Application for Certificate (form ISBE 73.03C)
- Official transcripts from all universities/colleges attended.
- Payment for applicable amount due.

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Application Procedures: Foreign Credentials

- Obtain foreign credential evaluation from one of the ISBE approved foreign credential evaluation agencies located at www.isbe.net/certification/html/foreign_credential.htm
- Request course-by-course evaluation
- Request several evaluation copies

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Application Procedures: Foreign Credentials

- Ask that one copy be sent directly to the Regional Office of Education **or** ask that the evaluation credentials agency send to the applicant one official copy in a sealed envelope; **and**
- Obtain official English translations of all education credentials written in another language, to be completed by a qualified translation service agency, consulate, or institution of higher education; **and**

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Application Procedures: Foreign Credentials

- The ROE may make photocopies of the applicant's original foreign credentials and return the original documents to the applicant.
- The applicant should enclose the certified photocopies made at the ROE, the original foreign credential evaluation report, and the official translation with the application for certificate (form 73.03C).

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Application Procedures: Non-U.S. Citizen

- Non-citizens must submit proof of legal presence and eligibility for employment;
- Non-citizens seeking “regular” certificates (excluding Transitional Bilingual and Visiting International Certificates) must also submit a “*Declaration of Intent to Become a U.S. Citizen*” (form 73-91)

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Approval Application Procedures

Submit the following to a Regional Office of Education or directly to ISBE:

- Completed “*Request for Approval as a Bilingual or ESL Teacher*” (form 73-49);
- Official transcripts containing all of the ESL/bilingual coursework taken;
- Proof of completion of 100 clock hour of clinical experience in an ESL or bilingual setting.

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Colleges & Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- American College of Education
- Argosy University
- Associated Colleges of the Midwest
- Aurora University
- Benedictine University
- Chicago State University
- College of Lake County
- Columbia College (Chicago)
- Concordia University
- DePaul University
- Dominican University

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Colleges & Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- Erkison Institute
- Governors' State University
- Illinois State University
- Kendall College
- Loyola University (Chicago)
- National-Louis University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- North Park University
- Northwestern University
- Oakton Community College

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Colleges/Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- Olivet Nazarene University
- Quincy University
- Rockford College
- St. Xavier University (Chicago)
- Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
- Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville
- Trinity Christian College
- University of Illinois at Chicago
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Western Illinois University
- Wheaton College

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Colleges/Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- Coursework is also available through the Illinois Resource Center for credit from one or more universities.
- We also accept coursework from the University of Phoenix.

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Short-term Authorization for Otherwise Unfilled Positions

- Replaces previous “*Request for Letter of Non-jeopardization.*”
- May only be granted to districts with proof that a search was conducted for a qualified teacher, and an appropriately qualified teacher could not be found.
- The authorization only pertains to an endorsement area.

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Short-term Authorization for Otherwise Unfilled Positions

- Teacher must have at least 9 semester hours in a subject area and a certificate for the grade level of the teaching position.
- Teacher must sign a statement of intent to become qualified.
- Authorization is valid for 3 years.
- If the authorization is for a bilingual position, the teacher must have passed the appropriate language proficiency test.