Illinois Bilingual and ESL Licensure

JOLENE REDDY
PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT
EDUCATOR LICENSURE DIVISION
ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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JREDDY@ISBE.NET
Overview

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- Educator License with Stipulations
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  - Transitional Bilingual Educator Endorsement
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New Licensure Requirements Effective 7/1/ 2013

- Three Licenses
  - Professional Educator License (PEL)
  - Educator License with Stipulations (ELS)
  - Substitute License

The ESL and bilingual approvals became endorsements valid for the grade range of the full certificate that the applicant previously held.

Applicants must now apply for the ESL or bilingual endorsement (not approval).

Bilingual and ESL special education approvals will continue to be issued with a $50 fee.
Illinois Entitlement Program Requirements

- Pass an Illinois test of basic skills (TAP, ACT Plus Writing, or SAT)
- Pass a content-area test prior to student teaching (or the last semester or term of internship if completing a school service personnel or administrative program)
- Pass an Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) test if applying for a teaching endorsement
- Complete an approved Illinois educator preparation program including a 32 semester hour major for the type of endorsement sought which also includes coursework in:
  - Cross-categorical special education methods
  - Methods of reading and reading in the content area
Professional Educator License (PEL)
Requirements for out-of-state/country applicants

- Proof of completion of a comparable state-approved program
- Appropriate degree and major from a regionally accredited institution
- One course in cross-categorical special education methods
- Six semester hours of coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content area
- One course in ESL/bilingual methods
- Satisfactory student teaching or an equivalent experience (continued)
Professional Educator License (PEL)
Requirements for out-of-state/country applicants

- Pass an Illinois test of basic skills (TAP, ACT Plus Writing, or SAT)
- Pass the applicable content-area test(s)
- Pass the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) if applying for a teaching endorsement

The professional educator license is valid for five years and is renewable upon completion of the professional development requirements.
Requirements for the Educator License with Stipulations (ELS) endorsed as a Provisional Educator for out-of-state/country applicants

- Valid, comparable out-of-state license
- Transcript from a regionally accredited institution of higher education demonstrating a bachelor’s degree (unless a master’s degree is required) with a minimum of 15 semester hours in content coursework
- Pass an Illinois test of basic skills (TAP, ACT Plus Writing, or SAT)
- Pass the applicable content-area test(s)
A provisional educator endorsement on an educator license with stipulations is valid until June 30 immediately following two years of the license being issued.

An educator license with stipulations endorsed as a provisional educator may not be renewed. No provisional endorsements on an educator license with stipulations shall be issued for principal.
Requirements for the ELS – Transitional Bilingual Educator

- Hold a degree from an institution of higher learning in the U.S. or abroad or
- Hold another type of teaching certificate issued within the past five years
- Prove language proficiency in the target language and English.
The transitional bilingual educator endorsement is a temporary endorsement.

The endorsement is valid for five fiscal years and may not be renewed.

During this time, the teacher must complete the requirements for a professional educator license or educator license with stipulations – provisional educator.
If the teacher wants to continue teaching in a bilingual or ESL setting, the teacher must also complete the appropriate endorsement requirements within five fiscal years.

Teachers holding a transitional bilingual educator endorsement may teach in a **K-12 bilingual** setting and/or a **K-6 ESL** setting.
• Teachers holding a transitional bilingual educator endorsement may apply for the LBSI endorsement if they meet the requirements.

• Teachers holding the transitional bilingual educator endorsement may add a language endorsement by passing the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) and applicable foreign language content-area test.
  - The foreign language endorsement will be valid as long as the license is valid (a maximum of five years.)
• 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.
• Issued to internationally trained teachers participating in state approved international exchange program;
• Valid for 3 fiscal years;
• Non-renewable; and
• Must have demonstrated English proficiency through ISBE specified testing.
• 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.
• These educators will be endorsed in:
  o the same subjects/grade levels as those in their home country;
  o bilingual endorsement; and
  o foreign/world language endorsement based upon the medium of instruction of the university where the educator obtained his/her degree.
Grade levels available:

- Early Childhood (Birth – grade 3)
- Elementary (K-9th grade)
- Secondary (6th – 12th grade)
- Special (K-12th grade)
The applicant must apply for the license through ELIS.
District Superintendent must verify completion of the overseas testing (through ELIS);
Must submit original foreign credentials evaluation completed by ISBE approved agency; and
Must include English language proficiency evaluation results.
Substitute License

- Hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the U.S. or abroad
- May perform as a substitute teacher in grades K-12th grade.
- This license is valid for five years and may be renewed if the applicant has passed a test of basic skills.
• 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.
Bilingual Assessments Offered

- English Language Proficiency (ELP) test and

- There are currently 25 Target Language Proficiency (TLP) tests. Several tests have been recently created due to increased demand for bilingual teachers in new target languages. The current Target Language Proficiency tests include the following:
## Bilingual Assessments Offered

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<td>Hindi</td>
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Testing in Other Low-Incidence Languages

- If a target language proficiency (TLP) test is not offered by our testing company, and bilingual instruction is mandated by state law, then contact Linda Jamali in the Educator Licensure Division at ljamali@isbe.net
- Arrangements will be attempted to provide testing in the low-incident target language.
The TLP – Spanish and ELP tests are currently offered six 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 online at http://www.isbe.net/certification/html/testing.htm
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.
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.
• 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 a professional educator license or educator license with stipulations endorsed in a teaching field 
• Pass the appropriate target language proficiency test if applying for a bilingual endorsement
ESL Endorsement 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).
Bilingual Endorsement 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).
Grade levels of ESL and Bilingual Endorsements

- Primary for teachers who hold early childhood, elementary, and K-12 endorsements;
- Middle school for teachers who hold elementary, secondary, and K-12 endorsements; and
- Senior high school for teachers who hold secondary and K-12 endorsements.
Endorsements (ESL and Bilingual)

- The requirements for the ESL and bilingual endorsement for any of the grade levels is the same except at the middle school level.
- All middle school endorsements require six semester hours of coursework in middle school education.
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) including 12 semester hours of upper division ENL coursework and passage of the ENL test.
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 listed previously, pass the ENL test, and pass the appropriate target language proficiency test. This allows these educators to teach in a bilingual setting.
**Option 1:**
- Hold a license endorsed in a special education teaching field or a license with a special education approval;
- Complete the language proficiency assessment in the target language;
- Complete a theoretical foundations of bilingual/ESL education course;
- Complete a bilingual methods course; and
- Complete an assessment of the bilingual student course.
Option 2:
Hold a license endorsed in early childhood, elementary, secondary, or special and ESL or bilingual;
Complete an LBSI characteristics course;
Complete an LBSI methods course; and
Complete a psychological diagnosis course for exceptional students.
**Option 3:**

Hold a license with a transitional bilingual educator endorsement and have two years of successful teaching experience;

Complete LBSI methods and characteristics courses;

Complete survey of the exceptional student; and

Complete theoretical foundations and assessment of the bilingual student courses.
• **Option 4:**
  
  - Hold a license endorsed in school support personnel;
  
  - Successfully complete the bilingual language exam; and
  
  - Complete an assessment of the bilingual student course.
ESL Special Education Approval

• **Option 1:**
  - Hold a license endorsed in a special education teaching field or a license with a special education approval;
  - Complete a theoretical foundations of bilingual/ESL education course;
  - Complete an ESL methods course; and
  - Complete a bilingual assessment course.
Option 2:
- Hold a license endorsed in school support personnel (except school nurse)
- Complete the bilingual assessment course.
Application Procedures

- Apply online
  - www.isbe.net/licensure
  - Use the ELIS link
Application Fees

- $150 for out-of-state applicants applying for their first license; subsequent license applications are $75
- $150 for applicants applying for a visiting international educator endorsement on an ELS
- $75 for applicants in Illinois applying for a new license
- $75 for applicants applying for a transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an ELS
- $50 for endorsement applications
- $50 for bilingual or ESL special education approvals
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
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.
The ROE may make photocopies of the applicant’s original foreign credentials and foreign credential evaluation report and return the original documents to the applicant.

The applicant or ROE should submit the certified photocopies (made at the ROE) of the original foreign credentials and foreign credential evaluation report to ISBE.
Pursuant to PA 97-0607, which was signed into law on August 26, 2011, ISBE does not need to look for
- Legal presence
- Have applicants sign the “Intent to Become a U.S. Citizen” form
- School districts must verify legal presence and employment eligibility; applicants do not need to submit this verification to ISBE.
Colleges & Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- 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
- Erickson Institute
- Governors State University
- Greenville College
- Illinois State University
Colleges & Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- Judson University
- Kendall College
- Knox College
- Lewis University
- Loyola University (Chicago)
- North Central College
- National-Louis University
- Northeastern Illinois University
- Northern Illinois University
- North Park University
- Northwestern University
- Oakton Community College
- Olivet Nazarene University
Colleges/Universities offering ESL/Bilingual Coursework

- Quincy University
- Rockford College
- Roosevelt University
- 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 Springfield
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of St. Francis
- Western Illinois University
- Wheaton College
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 and American College of Education.