



Illinois State Board of Education

Early Childhood Education Licensure Initiatives

The Illinois State Board of Education has taken recent steps to increase licensure flexibilities available within the realm of early childhood education. Some flexibilities are already in place while others are being explored. See more details below.

Licensure Policies Currently in Effect

- ISBE will continue to accept coursework earned through regionally accredited community colleges toward licensure and endorsement requirements, including coursework earned as part of an applied associate degree.
- ISBE will also continue to encourage and support educator preparation providers (EPPs) in honoring prior work experience and knowledge in place of coursework that forms part of an educator preparation program. ISBE believes that proficiencies gained in prior settings, as evidenced through prior learning assessments, can enable candidates to become licensed in a timely, cost-effective manner. EPPs should utilize form [83-85: Verification of Individualized Pathway to Licensure](#) if honoring individualized pathways for particular candidates. The form must be uploaded to the candidate's ELIS account prior to entitlement. If honoring prior degrees or experience for an entire program, EPPs should file a Program Change Notification form, which is available [here](#) under the *Educator Preparation Program Resources* header. In all cases, please list the credit earned for the prior learning on each educator's transcript.
- Student teachers can be compensated for their services per Illinois Administrative Code Section 25.620(f.). This flexibility applies to all content areas and settings - not just early childhood education.

Ongoing and Upcoming Licensure Policy Activities

- ISBE is working with its testing partner, Pearson Education Inc., to examine each test question on the Early Childhood Education content test for bias and take appropriate action. Action may include removing specific test questions or convening a bias review panel for a more in-depth analysis.
- ISBE is proposing several revisions to Illinois Administrative Code Part 25: Educator Licensure. Specific changes relate to cooperating teacher requirements in early learning settings, the requirements for fieldwork and student teaching to occur in three distinct grade bands, and the particular sciences and social sciences required in Section 25.96 for early childhood education programs. The State Board of Education will vote to release the proposed rules for public comment after its November 18 meeting. They will be posted [here](#) after State Board approval, and all members of the public are invited to submit commentary.



If you have questions about any of the above efforts, please reach out to your Educator Effectiveness educator preparation liaison.