



Get the Facts

Reading Specialist Certificate Requirements

Individuals seeking the Reading Specialist certificate are to apply for the Type 10 Special teaching certificate with the Reading Specialist endorsement. The Reading Specialist endorsement on the Special certificate is available to individuals who meet each of the following requirements:

1. complete an approved Reading Specialist program
2. have a Master's or higher degree
3. have two years of full-time teaching experience on a valid certificate
4. pass the Basic Skills (#300), the APT K-12 (#104), and the Reading Specialist content-area (#176) tests.

See the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Guide to Certification Requirements for more detailed information:
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/requirements/toc.htm>

Certification Tests:

Students register for the required certification tests through the Illinois Certification Testing System's website (ICTS). Please visit <http://www.icts.nesinc.com/> for more information.

The Reading Specialist certificate requires the Basic Skills test (#300), the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) Grades K-12 test (#104), and the Reading Specialist content-area test (#176). *Students who have already taken the Basic Skills test for their teaching or school service personnel certificate need not take the Basic Skills test again as long as their certificate is valid at the time they apply for the Reading Specialist certificate. **Students who have transferred their teaching certificates from out-of-state may be required to take the Illinois Basic Skills test for the Reading Specialist certificate - please check with ISBE and your academic advisor.

Students must pass all tests prior to certification.

Application Steps:

Upon completion of the Reading Specialist program, students must apply for their certificate. Students must complete a certificate application, which can be found on ISBE's website: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/> Once on ISBE's home page, look for the "Forms" link on the blue menu bar at the top of the screen. Click on "Forms", then click on "Certification." You must complete the "73-03C "Application for Teaching Certificate" application form.

You will need to submit the following information to the Certification Officer to have your application materials processed:

1. Completed and signed application form (73-03C)
2. Letter from employer on employer letterhead indicating 2-years full-time teaching experience
3. Copies of passing test scores for the Basic Skills, the APT K-12, and the Reading Specialist content area tests

Your materials will be reviewed, and if approved, the seal of the university will be applied to your application form. The student will then submit the sealed application form, official transcripts, and a money order to ISBE to receive the actual certificate.

* Certification requirements are subject to change per the discretion of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).
ISBE's website: <http://www.isbe.state.il.us/>

Certification Officer

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