

ACADEMICS

ADVISING

LICENSURE

Licensure Update:
November 2013

RESOURCES

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As you may have heard, the Illinois State Board of Education changed its method of credentialing educators from a *certification system* to a *licensure system* **effective July 1, 2013**. Aside from simple terminology, what this means is that educators in Illinois earn a single license, called a Professional Educator License (PEL), and each subject area and grade level is indicated by an endorsement. Educators have only one PEL but may have multiple endorsements to indicate various subject areas and grade levels.

Examples:

An individual who completes our approved program in **Elementary Education** with endorsements in middle school language arts and social science may receive the following:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Elementary Education (Self Contained General Education), kindergarten through grade 9
 - Language Arts, middle school – grade 5 through grade 8
 - Social Science, middle school – grade 5 through grade 8

An individual who completes our approved program in **Secondary Education English** with endorsements in middle school language arts and Spanish may receive the following:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - English Language Arts, senior HS – grade 9 through grade 12
 - Language Arts, middle school – grade 6 through grade 8
 - Foreign Language-Spanish, middle school – grade 6 through grade 8

An individual who completes our approved program in **Early Childhood** may receive the following:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Early Childhood Education, birth through grade 3
 - Self Contained General Education, birth through grade 3
 - Early Childhood Special Education Approval (additional application & fee required)

An individual who completes our approved program for the **General Administrative* endorsement** will have the endorsement added to his/her PEL and it may look like this:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - General Administrative, kindergarten through grade 12
 - Elementary Education (Self Contained General Education), Kindergarten through grade 9
 - General Science, middle school – grade 5 through grade 8

**Per State law, the General Administration endorsement will not be available after Summer 2014.*

An individual who completes our approved program for the Principal endorsement will have the endorsement added to his or her PEL and it may look like this:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Principal, kindergarten through grade 12
 - English Language Arts, senior HS - grade 9 through grade 12

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An individual who completes our approved program in **School Counseling** may receive the following:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - School Counselor, **prekindergarten through grade 12**

An individual who completes our approved program for the **Reading Specialist endorsement** will have the endorsement added to his or her PEL and it may look like this:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Reading Specialist, kindergarten through grade 12
 - Elementary Education (Self Contained General Education), kindergarten through grade 9
 - ESL, Kindergarten through grade 4
 - ESL, middle school – grade 5 through grade 8

An individual who completes our approved program in **Special & Elementary Education*** with an endorsement in middle school social science may receive the following:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Learning Behavior Specialist 1, pre-Kindergarten through age 21
 - Elementary Education (Self Contained General Education), kindergarten through grade 9
 - Social Science, middle school – grade 5 through grade 8

**Formally known as the Dual Cert program.*

An individual who completes our approved program for the **LBS1 endorsement (pre-Kindergarten – age 21)** will have the endorsement added to his or her PEL and it may look like this:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Learning Behavior Specialist 1, pre -Kindergarten through age 21
 - Social Science-History, senior HS - grade 9 through grade 12
 - Social Science, middle school – grade 6 through grade 8

An individual who completes our approved program for the **Superintendent endorsement** will have the endorsement added to his or her PEL and it may look like this:

- Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Music, kindergarten through grade 12
 - General Administrative, kindergarten through grade 12
 - Superintendent, kindergarten through grade 12

Please note that in addition to completing an approved program, individuals must pass licensure tests and fulfill other requirements that are specific to the license or endorsement the individual is seeking as indicated by ISBE.

Additional changes

In addition to the change to the PEL, the Illinois State Board changed the requirements for applying for the Early Childhood Special Education Approval. All individuals completing our Early Childhood program earn this approval, however, ISBE now requires a separate application and fee in order to be issued the approval. Because this change went into effect on July 1, 2013 it applies to every individual pursuing the approval from that point forward.