

Pathways to Licensure: Early Childhood Education



Are you looking to fill a vacant Early Childhood position in your school?

You may have an educator in your school or district who is already qualified!

Below are the most common credentials that educators earn to work in Early Childhood settings.

Professional Educator License (PEL) requirements

Option 1

PEL + Early Childhood
endorsement
(Grades B-2 or B-3)

Option 2

PEL + Early Childhood Special
Education endorsement
(Grades B-2 or B-3)

Option 3

PEL + Elementary Education
endorsement
(Grades K-9 or 1-6)

(for teaching grades kindergarten and higher)

Short-Term Approval (STA) Requirements

Option 1

STA – Early Childhood

- ✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
- ✓ One of the following:
 - Nine semester hours of coursework in Early Childhood Education (specific coursework is required)
 - A passing score on the Early Childhood content test

Option 2

STA – Content Knowledge Pathway

- Bachelor's degree in any Early Childhood field (not related to education), and
- A passing score on the Early Childhood content test

These approvals are temporary credentials that allow an educator to immediately begin teaching while working toward full licensure requirements.

Application procedures

View full requirements at
www.isbe.net/licensure

1

Create or login
to your existing
ELIS account

2

Submit the applicable
endorsement or
approval application

3

Pay the \$50
application fee

4

Submit required
forms and transcripts
to your ROE/ISC

5

