Pathways to Licensure: Middle Grades

Are you looking to fill a content specific Middle Grades position in your school? You may have an educator in your school or district who is already qualified to fill the position! The requirements below outline the most common credentials that educators earn to work in Middle Grades settings.

Professional Educator License (PEL) Requirements

Option 1 — PEL + Middle Grades/Middle School endorsement (Grades 5-8 or 6-8)

Option 2 — PEL + Junior High endorsement (Grades 5-8 or 6-8)

Option 3 — PEL + Elementary Education endorsement (if teaching in a self-contained setting for Grades K-9 or 1-6)

Major & Minor Teaching Assignment Requirements

Option 1 — PEL + Junior High/Middle School endorsement for the major teaching assignment + five semester hours of coursework in the content area for the minor teaching assignment

Option 2 — PEL + Middle Grades endorsement for major teaching assignment + six semester hours of coursework in the content area for the minor teaching assignment

Short-Term Approval (STA) Requirements

Option 1
STA — Middle Grades (Grades 5-8)
- ✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
- ✓ One of the following:
  - Nine semester hours of coursework in the applicable content area sought
  - A passing score on the applicable content test

Option 2
STA — Content Knowledge Pathway
- ✓ A passing score on the applicable content test
- ✓ One of the following:
  - Bachelor's degree in the content area of the endorsement sought
  - Bachelor's degree in any area + 32 semester hours of coursework in the content area of the endorsement sought

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

Application procedures

1. View full requirements at www.isbe.net/licensure
2. Create or login to your existing ELIS account
3. Submit the applicable endorsement or approval application
4. Pay the $50 application fee
5. Submit required forms and transcripts to your ROE/ISC

Self-contained
The educator is teaching one group of students several subject areas throughout the day.

Major Teaching Assignment
The subject the educator is teaching for most of the day.

Minor Teaching Assignment
The subject the educator is teaching for a minority of the day.

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Illinois State Board of Education