

Frequently Asked Questions: Transitioning to Licensure

Updated April 29, 2013

1. Will everyone have to renew this year, no matter if they are up for renewal?

- *No, only those individuals who are up for renewal will have to renew their certificate which will become a license. These individuals need to follow the 2013 renewal guidelines.*
- *Teachers who are not up for renewal do not have to renew. Their certificate will transfer over to a Professional Educator License. They will renew their Professional Educator License as scheduled based on their date of renewal.*

2. If I am not up for renewal, do I need to do anything with the current system this year?

- *It is recommended that all educators in the ECS system go to the ECS system log in and do the following:*
 - *Keep evidence of completion for your CPDUs*
 - *Make a copy of all documentation in the ECS system for your own record keeping. The ECS system will be transferred over to the new Educator License Information System (ELIS).*
 - *Maintain your own records. All records and CPDU documentation will be the responsibility of the teacher.*
 - *Each teacher should keep a log and documentation of all CPDUs on file in their possession for the purposes of renewal and also validating in case of an audit.*

3. When we convert from certificates to licenses, what types of licenses will be available?

- *Professional Educator License*
- *Educator License with Stipulations*
 - *Provisional Educator*
 - *Alternative Provisional Educator*
 - *Alternative Provisional Superintendent*
 - *Resident Teacher*
 - *Career and Technical Educator*
 - *Provisional Career and Technical Educator*
 - *Transitional Bilingual*
 - *Visiting International Teacher*
 - *Paraprofessional*
- *Substitute Teacher License*

4. When will teaching certificates make the transition to Licenses?

- July 1, 2013

5. Currently in Illinois, 3 levels of teaching certificates are issued: Initial, Standard and Master Certificates. Will these levels be maintained in the Licensure System?

- All leveled certificates (initial, standard or master) will be eliminated and all current endorsements will transfer to the Professional Educator License (PEL). Additionally, anyone who currently holds a NBPTS designation will continue to hold that designation on the PEL as long as they maintain their NBPTS certification.
- All teachers from beginning teachers to veteran teachers will have one Professional Educator License.

6. If I currently have an initial certificate will I keep my initial certificate? Or how do I change over to the new license?

- Teachers who are not up for renewal do not have to do anything. Their certificate will transfer over to a Professional Educator License with their current renewal date.
- Initial Teachers who are up for renewal in 2013 can either:
 - Register in ECS prior to July 1 and renew to June 30, 2017, OR
 - Register in ELIS beginning July 1 to renew to June 30, 2019

7. If it is time for me to move from initial to standard (end of year 4) what do I need to do?

- Nothing, you will move to the new Professional Educator License and need not apply for a Standard Certificate.

8. What about speech pathologists and social workers, what will happen to their certificates?

- Everyone will have a Professional Educator License.
- Self-contained elementary, content-area endorsements, special education, administrative and school service personnel endorsements along with appropriate grade levels will be placed on a professional educator license.

9. What about paraprofessional requirements?

- *An Educator License with Stipulations for a paraprofessional will be issued, upon application, to anyone holding a high school diploma or its equivalent **and** holds one of the following: An associate's degree or a minimum of 60 semester hours of college credit or has passed a test of basic skills (the ACT Workkeys or the ETS Parapro).*
- *Anyone who currently holds the State and NCLB Paraprofessional Approval will automatically receive an Educator License with Stipulations.*
- *The paraprofessional endorsement may be renewed after 5 years by paying the registration fees. There are no additional requirements to renew this endorsement.*

10. As a paraprofessional do I need an educator license or state approval?

- *A license is required for individuals working in Title 1 positions. Paraprofessionals who currently hold NCLB approval at this time will receive a Paraprofessional Educator Endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, valid for 5 years.*
- *A State approval will remain valid indefinitely. An individual may continue to work in a non-Title 1 position with this approval.*
- *An individual that holds an Educator license or Substitute license could serve as a Paraprofessional without the Educator License with Stipulations.*

11. Has the substitute license changed?

- *A Substitute Teaching License is one of the three new types of licenses issued.*
- *The requirement is a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institute of higher education.*
- *A Substitute Teaching License may be issued to qualified applicants for substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools, Pre K-Grade 12.*
- *A Substitute Teaching License is valid in every county in the state.*
- *If an individual has had his or her Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked, or has not met renewal requirements for licensure, then the individual is not eligible to obtain a Substitute Teaching License.*

12. I am retired and my license is currently in exempt status, will that be changing?

- *This status will most likely remain with the title being changed to "retired".*

13. Will the renewal process change for 2014?

- *The final renewal requirements beginning July 1, 2014 have not yet been released. It is possible that changes will be released in the future.*
- *Keep records of your professional development until new statutes are adopted. Your “Evidence of Completion” Forms are still important.*

14. Will the Educator Certification System (ECS) be changing and what should I do?

- *Yes, the ECS system will be replaced with a new database called the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) on July 1, 2013.*
- *Print all of your information currently located on ECS before June 1, 2013 for your records.*

15. How can I obtain current information about these changes?

- *Monitor the ISBE website for additional information.*
<http://www.isbe.state.il.us/certification/default.htm>

16. What are the requirements for receiving a Professional Educator License?

- *Successfully completed an approved educator preparation program and are recommended for licensure by the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation program;*
- *Successfully completed all testing requirements;*
- *Successfully completed coursework on the psychology of, the identification of, and the methods of instruction for the exceptional child, including, without limitation, the learning disabled (to be further defined in rule);*
- *Instructional Strategies for English Language Learners*
- *Successfully completed coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content area (to be further defined in rule); and*
- *Met all other criteria established by rule of the State Board of Education*

ISBE website with additional information: <http://www.isbe.net/certification/default.htm>

Important Notices!  **Regarding Licensure Change**

Examples of the Exchange from a Current Certificate to a License

Certificate

- Type 04 Early Childhood Certificate
- Valid for Teaching Birth to Grade 3

- Self-contained General Education
Age 0 through Grade 3

License

- Professional Educator License
- Valid for Teaching Birth to
Grade 3
- Self-contained General Education
Age 0 through Grade 3

Certificate

- Type 03 Early Childhood Certificate
- Valid for Teaching Grades (K-9)
- Endorsed in one or more middle school
content areas; mathematics middle
school and mathematics upper
elementary/junior high

License

- Professional Educator License
- Self-Contained General Education (K-9)
- Endorsed in math middle school
- Endorsed in math upper elementary/
junior high

Certificate

- Type 10 Special Certificate
- Endorsed in Music
- Valid for teaching Grades K-12

License

- Professional Educator License
- Endorsed in Music K-12

Certificate

- Type 10 Special Certificate
- Endorsed in Learning Behavior
Specialist 1 (LBS I) Pre K-Age21

License

- Professional Educator License
- Endorsed in Learning Behavior Specialist
1 (LBS I) Pre K-Age 21

Certificate

- Type 73 School Service Certificate
- Endorsed in School Social Work
- Valid for K-12

License

- Professional Educator License
- Endorsed in School Social Work
- Valid for K-12