

Illinois State Board of Education Education Effectiveness Division

Responses to questions from the field

- IACTE Meeting, March 21, 2017 Bloomington, IL
- IACTE-IATEPC Meeting, March 28, 2017 Springfield, IL

MIDDLE GRADES

1. Please explain ISBE's idea of a focused program for middle grades endorsements. In order to offer a focused program in an area, an IHE must already offer a full program in the same area that has been approved by SEPLB
 - a. ISBE defers to rule to define a focused program (25.37). Additionally, in order to offer a focused program in an area, an IHE must already offer a full program in the same area that has been approved by SEPLB.

The institution may, at its discretion, compare the coursework and clinical experiences already completed by the applicant to the standards for the endorsement sought and, based on this comparison, may identify for the candidate a "focused program" consisting of coursework and experiences that he or she must complete in order to meet those standards.

A) In formulating this type of program, the institution shall ensure that the candidate has broad and deep knowledge of the subject matter, develops the knowledge and skills that are needed to work with students in the age and grade ranges encompassed by the endorsement sought, and is knowledgeable about pedagogical approaches that are suitable for that age group.

B) The institution may revise an individual's focused program to include additional or fewer components as it may deem appropriate based upon the results of internal performance assessments that form part of the institution's assessment system (see Section 25.120) or other assessments that are directly related to the standards for the endorsement sought.

C) Each institution shall make available a description of the method to be used by the educational unit in assessing the degree to which the work previously completed by candidates for focused programs has addressed relevant standards and in identifying the coursework and experiences these candidates will be required to complete in order to qualify for subsequent endorsements. An institution that uniformly requires all candidates seeking subsequent teaching endorsements to complete certain coursework or field experiences, or to complete a full program without acknowledgment of prior courses or experiences, shall publish and make available a written statement to this effect, describing those requirements.

2) A candidate who completes a focused program shall be considered as having completed the institution's approved program for the endorsement sought and shall be eligible to be recommended for the endorsement by entitlement, signifying that the candidate has met all applicable standards.

2. If a student completes a secondary (9-12) content program, takes six hours of professional education middle school coursework, and completes some field experience and clinical experience in middle school, does this constitute a focused program in the same content area?
 - a. The current requirement (available until January 31, 2018) for a middle school endorsement is 18 semester hours of content and 6 semester hour of MS professional education coursework. In order to offer a focused program in an area, an IHE must already offer a full program in the same area that has been approved by SEPLB. It is important to note that **Middle School** endorsements are not awarded by virtue of an approved program.
3. Does ISBE require any documentation from the IHE regarding a focused program?
 - a. ISBE does not require documentation for institutions to offer a focus program. Please note, in order to offer a focused program in an area, an IHE must already offer a full program in the same area that has been approved by SEPLB.
4. If educator applies for the Middle School endorsement (18 + 6) before January 31, 2018 will a deficiency letter be issued if they do not meet the endorsement requirements?
 - a. Yes
5. Would the deficiency allow them to have two full fiscal years to satisfy the deficiencies (June 30 2020)?
 - a. Yes

6. What are the statistics for the number of approved middle grades programs and the diversity of the content areas approved since the movement towards the new middle grades expectations?
 - a. 25 Traditional Undergrad and Grad programs /2 Alternative programs (All institutions off 4 core areas)
7. I want to confirm that a University will be able to add subsequent endorsements for middle grades teachers in areas that have not been approved. Example- A current MG English teacher wishes to add a Dance endorsement via subsequent endorsement (21+3). If we do not have a MG approved dance program, we can still add a subsequent endorsement assuming the student meets the endorsement requirements?
 - a. Yes
8. To assist programs and low numbers, can institutions rewrite methods courses to both teach secondary and middle level content specific methods at the same time? This will help assist as two separate courses may not be feasible to offer due to low numbers.
 - a. Yes
9. Teacher candidates who will be completing their approved program for their initial license in Spring and Fall 2018, will be able to apply for a Middle School, Grade 5-8 (Elementary) or Grade 6-8 (Secondary) through ISBE before January 31, 2018. Is this correct?
 - a. Anyone wishing to obtain a Middle School (18+6) endorsement must either apply to ISBE or be entitled by an institution by January 31, 2018.

ELS-PIDU

10. How can a teacher candidate receive a Provisional In-State Educator License when completing the Illinois approved teacher education program is a requirement? Because passing the edTPA is a requirement of completing the Illinois approved teacher education program at the institution?
 - a. The ELS-PIDU is offered to institution to use if they so choose. If a candidate meets the requirements below, the ELS-PIDU may be granted to the candidate.
 - i. Bachelor's Degree
 - ii. Completion of all program requirements (w/ the exception of passing the edTPA)
 - iii. Minimum Passing score on edTPA
 1. Score will remain 3 points below current cut score.
11. If the candidate receives this Provisional License, will the failed EdTPA attempts of this candidate be counted towards the institution on the Title II report?
 - b. Yes

ESL/BIL

12. Under the new policy regarding grade ranges, can a teacher with a K-9 endorsement and an ELS K-4 endorsement (because he did not meet the middle school course requirement) reapply and pay ISBE to obtain a K-9 ESL endorsement? Same questions for a teacher with a 6-12 secondary endorsement.
 - a. Yes
13. Will there be a particular number of credit hours required for the ESL/BIL endorsement after September 1, 2018?
 - a. The credit hours will remain the same
14. Do the bilingual courses need to align to 27.425 (a) and (b)?
 - a. Yes

TESTING

15. Will the state be considering rewriting the TAP or adjusting the cut score due to the current passage rate of teacher candidates taking the exam in hopes of increasing numbers?
 - a. The Evaluation Systems of Pearson will facilitate standard setting for the TAP this summer.
16. If passed, how soon do you anticipate that you can begin super scoring of the ACT and SAT.
 - a. Tentative summer/fall 2017.

REDESIGN OF SECONDARY PROGRAM

17. When will ISBE publish program change dates and information for secondary and K-12 program proposals and revisions to the programs and Universities?
 - a. October 1, 2020- No candidate shall be admitted into an "Old" (6-12) program, additionally this date would be the date that "New" (9-12) programs may become effective.
 - b. October 1, 2024- "Old" (6-12) Programs must be completed
 - c. October 1, 2025-Candidates must be entitled for "Old" (6-12) program

MISCELLANEOUS

18. With the changes in grade levels for ESL, bilingual and gifted, when does ISBE expect to decide on graduate endorsement areas such as Library Information Specialist/Technology Specialist?
 - a. No projected timeline is available right now. ISBE will consider feedback from all stakeholders and disseminate any grade band changes when appropriate.
19. Will ISBE consider changing the requirement of the LBSII to allow a K-9 licensed special education teacher to acquire the LBSII without have to meet the full PK-21 grade range requirement?
 - a. No changes for any special education endorsements are being considered at this time. However, ISBE plans to work with CEEDAR to convene a stakeholder group to begin the redesign of the Special Education standards and review endorsement requirements. This process is in its infancy. ISBE will have further updates as it progresses.
20. What is the status of the Entitlement Report?
 - a. Please email your ISBE liaison if you are having difficulty with an entitlement report.
21. Has there been any progress in establishing a statewide method for background checks for teacher candidates? Please clarify state requirements for students completing field experience in schools vs. pre-clinical and clinical students.
 - a. The Educator Effectiveness Division has no updates to share.

Please submit additional questions please do not hesitate to contact your assigned ISBE liaison.

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