

## Frequently Asked Questions: Transitioning to Licensure

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

- *No. Those individuals who are up for renewal will have to renew their certificate which will become a license.*
- *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 teachers in the ECS system go to the ECS system log in and do the following:*
  - *Update all CPDUs they have accumulated.*
  - *Make a copy of all documentation in the ECS system for their own record keeping. The ECS system will be transferred over to the new ISLE system.*
  - *Maintain their 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. Random audits will be conducted.*

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

- *Professional Educator License*
- *Educator License with Stipulations*
  - *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?**

- *The three levels of teaching certificates: initial, standard and master will be eliminated; however, a National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) designation will appear on the teaching license.*
- *All teachers from beginning teachers to veteran teachers will have a 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?**

- *Teacher who are not up for renewal do not have to renew. Their certificate will transfer over to a Professional Educator License.*

**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. Your license will now be a 5 year license so you will have one more year before renewal.*

**8. If I am in the mentoring program and I meet the requirements for participation, the requirements are supposed to move my Initial Certificate over to Standard Certificate; will the requirements still count for my CPDUs for the new license?**

- *Yes. CPDUs will be provided for activities similar to the current activities.*
- *You will transition over to the Professional Educator License.*
- *See question #6 for more information regarding Initial Certificates.*

**9. 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 or an educator license with stipulations.*

**10. What about paraprofessional requirements?**

- *An Educator License with Stipulations for a paraprofessional will be issued 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).*
- *The paraprofessional endorsement may be renewed after 5 years through application and payment of the applicable fee. There are no additional requirements to renew this endorsement.*

**11. 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.*
- *An approval will remain valid indefinitely. An individual may continue to work in a non-Title 1 position with this approval.*

**12. 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.*

**13. 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 "retired".*

#### 14. 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.*

#### 15. 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 License Information System (ELIS) on July 1, 2013.*
- *Print all of your information currently located on ECS before June 30, 2013 for you records.*

#### 16. 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>

#### 17. 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);*
- *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 Elementary (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