**ILLINOIS EDUCATOR LICENSURE SYSTEM**

The concept behind the Professional Educator License is to create an educator credential that educators, employers, and potential employers can clearly understand. Each license will identify the content area(s) in which the individual is qualified to teach and the specific grade levels that may be taught. This should remove much of the “guess work” from classroom assignments and administrative positions.

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Before July 1, 2013, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will implement a system of educator licensure whereby individuals who are employed in school districts and who are required to be licensed must have one of the following licenses:

1. professional educator license
2. professional educator license with stipulations
3. substitute teaching license

All current teaching credentials (or the contemporary equivalent) will be transferred to the new license. Actual paper licenses will not be available; instead all credentials will be accessible online by use of the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). There will no longer be a “tiered” certification system; the current 4-year initial teaching certificate will be replaced by a 5-year professional educator license. Individuals who currently have a NCLB (No Child Left Behind) paraprofessional approval will receive an Educator License with Stipulations that includes a paraprofessional endorsement. Individuals with state-only approvals will continue to hold those same approvals.

Registration fees will also transfer to the new licenses, and the next registration date will be the same as the current one. Therefore, if an individual has three years’ registration left on his or her certificate at the time of the exchange, the fees will be credited to the new credential. A yearly registration fee of $10 must be paid for each type of license held. Licenses will lapse six months from the date of the last registration, and a penalty will be applied to reinstate a lapsed license.

**There will be three types of licenses.**

1. **Professional Educator License** is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the license being issued. This is the equivalent of the current Standard Teaching Certificate. Those holding a current Master Teacher Certificate will receive the Professional Educator License with the applicable NBPTS (National Board for Professional Teaching Standards) designation.
2. **Educator License with Stipulations** is 1) non-renewable, 2) limits the license-holder to one particular position, **or** 3) does not require completion of an approved educator program; **or** it can be any combination of 1 through 3. The holder of an Educator License with Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason. This license will replace all of the special 2-, 3-, and 4-year certificates and those that currently are not renewable.
3. **Substitute Teaching License** is valid for 5 years and may be renewed if the individual has passed a test of basic skills. This license is valid for substitute teaching in every county of the state. If an individual has had his/her Professional Educator License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked or has not met renewal requirements for licensure, that individual is not eligible to obtain this license. This license is not eligible for endorsements. Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.

Details of the new system may be found in **Public Act 97-0607** or in the Illinois School Code.

*Educator Certification, March 2012*