



# Illinois State Board of Education

## Early Childhood Department Licensure Requirements

| Educator Area  | Licensure Requirements  |
|--|---|
| <b><u>Early Childhood Education</u> Teacher</b>                                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Current Professional Educator License (PEL) with an Early Childhood Education endorsement OR</li> <li>2) <a href="#">Short-Term Approval for Early Childhood Education</a> OR</li> <li>3) <a href="#">Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for alternative provisional education (ELS-APE) with an Early Childhood Education endorsement</a> OR</li> <li>4) <a href="#">Educator License with Stipulations endorsed for visiting international educator (ELS-VIT) with an Early Childhood Education endorsement</a></li> </ol> |
| <b>Preschool for All and Preschool for All Expansion Teacher</b>                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Early Childhood Education teacher OR</li> <li>2) ECE Credential Level of 5 awarded by Department of Human Services under the Gateways to Opportunity Program while pursuing a PEL (through 2029-2030 School Year)</li> </ol>  |
| <b><u>Blended Classroom Teacher when responsible for providing IEP minutes</u></b> | <p>Early Childhood Education teacher AND one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Early Childhood Special Education approval (<u>Pre-Kindergarten only</u>) OR</li> <li>2) Early Childhood Special Education Endorsement (Birth- Grade 3) OR</li> <li>3) <a href="#">Short-Term Emergency Approval for Early Childhood Special Education</a> (Pre-Kindergarten only) OR</li> </ol>   |
| <b><u>Bilingual Instruction</u> Preschool Teacher</b>                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PEL with endorsements in Early Childhood and Bilingual Education OR</li> <li>2) Educator License with Stipulations with a Transitional Bilingual Education (ELS-TBE) endorsement (to use an ELS-TBE teacher will additionally need to possess a PEL with an Early Childhood endorsement).</li> </ol>  |
| <b><u>ESL Instruction</u> Preschool Teacher</b>                                    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) PEL with endorsements in Early Childhood and either Bilingual Education or ESL OR</li> <li>2) ELS-TBE (to use an ELS-TBE for children being served in PFA and/or PFAE programs, a teacher will additionally need to possess a PEL with an Early Childhood endorsement).</li> </ol> <p>(If there is an Early Childhood Education teacher serving as classroom teacher, the ESL Instruction teacher may provide</p>   |



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|  | itinerant services and serve as a co-teacher and not have Early Childhood Education licensure)  |
| <a href="#"><u>Early Childhood Special Education Classroom Teacher</u></a>                     | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Early Childhood Special Education endorsement (Birth- Grade 3) OR</li> <li>2) LBSI (PK-22, K-22) + the Early Childhood Special Education teacher endorsement OR</li> <li>3) Early Childhood Special Education approval (Pre-Kindergarten setting only) OR</li> <li>4) <a href="#"><u>Short-Term Emergency Approval for Early Childhood Special Education</u></a> (Pre-Kindergarten setting only)</li> <li>5) <a href="#"><u>Short-Term Emergency Approval for Learning Behavior Specialist I (K- age 22)</u></a></li> </ol> |
| <a href="#"><u>Classroom Paraprofessional</u></a>  | Current Paraprofessional Educator License   |
| <b>Directors or Building Principals of preschool programs administered by school districts</b> | PEL endorsed for Principal or General Administration  |
| <b>Directors of childcare centers</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Minimum of a baccalaureate degree in child development or early childhood education or the equivalent AND</li> <li>2) Gateways to Opportunity Level II or III Illinois Director Credential</li> </ol>   |
| <a href="#"><u>Substitute Teacher*</u></a>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Substitute license OR</li> <li>2) Hold a valid Illinois educator license and a bachelor's degree</li> </ol> <p>*A district may continue to employ the same substitute teacher in the same vacant position for 90 calendar days or or until the end of the semester, whichever is greater, if, prior to the expiration of each 30-calendar-day period, the district files a written request with the appropriate regional office of education and fulfills certain criteria effective January 1, 2024.</p>                   |