



REGIONAL
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
Champion our community.

John Meixner, Regional Superintendent of Schools

Fulton • Hancock • McDonough • Schuyler

Junior High / Middle School / Middle Grade Endorsements

- Anyone who holds a Junior High (5-8 or 6-8) endorsement issued prior to July 1, 1997 can continue to teach that endorsed area.
- Anyone who currently hold a middle school subject area endorsement issued July 1, 1997 or after can continue to teach in that endorsed area.
- Teachers can apply for a middle school subject area endorsement through transcript evaluation under the current endorsement structure January 31, 2018. If they do not meet the requirements for that endorsement, they will have 2 full fiscal years plus the remainder of that current fiscal year to remove any deficiencies that they might have so that the middle school subject area endorsement can be issued.
- Anyone who currently holds a middle school subject area endorsement will be able to add a subsequent middle grade endorsement under the new endorsement structure that will take effect February 1, 2018 without needing to complete a state approved middle grade educator prep program.
- Anyone who currently holds a K-12 or Pre-K-21 teaching endorsement will be able to add a middle grade endorsement without needing to complete a state approved middle grade educator prep program.
- Educators will be able to take coursework to add subsequent middle grade endorsements at any regionally accredited college or university in Illinois or out-of-state.
- Beginning February 1, 2018, all new middle grade endorsements will require 24 semester hours of coursework which will include 3 semester hours of methods, plus the content area test.
 - Specific content tests have been developed in core areas for middle grade math, science, social science and language arts to be implemented during the spring of 2017.
- Under the new middle grade endorsement structure, a General Middle Grades test will be required, in addition to the current subject area content test if the educator is seeking an endorsement outside the 4 core areas of math, science, social science or language arts.
 - It is anticipated that the new General Middle Grades test will be available early spring of 2018.
 - The General Middle Grades test will be waived if the teacher has taught for one year in grades 5-8.
 - The General Middle Grades test will also be waived if the educator has passed the Elementary/Middle Grade (110) test.
- If a teacher is teaching two or more subjects at the middle school, the teacher needs to be fully licensed to teach in their major area of assignment and may now teach a minor area of assignment if they have taken 6 semester hours of coursework in the subject area (previously 9 hours).
- ISBE no longer requires a Junior High or Middle School endorsement in order to teach in a departmentalized 5th grade classroom.