



Illinois State Board of Education

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State Superintendent of Education

TO: Illinois Education Stakeholders

FROM: Center for Teaching and Learning, Educator Effectiveness Division

DATE: July 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Important Notice of Grade Range Change

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) would like to inform Illinois Educator Stakeholders of the change in policy regarding grade ranges for the following endorsements:

- Foreign Languages
- Library Information Specialist
- Technology Specialist
- Reading Teacher
- English as Second Language
- Bilingual Education
- Gifted Education Teacher

Effective July 7, 2017, the endorsements listed above will be issued/entitled for the K-12 range instead of separate and exclusive grade ranges, no matter the grade range an educator holds. Educators must meet all requirements for the above endorsement prior to the receiving licensure. This policy change is necessary insofar as many students are unable to access opportunities due to a shortage of appropriately endorsed teachers. Changing the grade range of these endorsements supports ISBE's efforts to ensure equity of opportunities for each and every child in Illinois, as schooling is a primary way in which young people are introduced to content areas in which they may not otherwise be aware.

Educators who already hold a grade band specific endorsement in the above areas may apply for the K-12 grade range; ISBE will not issue the above endorsements retroactively.

If you have questions, please contact the Educator Effectiveness Division at 217-557-6763.

