

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 holds 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 through 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 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 go through a state approved middle grade educator prep program.
- Anyone who currently holds a K-12 or a Pre-K-21 teaching endorsement will be able to add a middle grade endorsement without the need to go through an 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 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 Grade test will be available in 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 now needs to be fully licensed to teach in their major area of assignment and may now teach a minor area if they have taken 6 semester hours in the subject area (previously 9 semester hours)
- IBBE no longer requires a Junior High or Middle School endorsement in order to teach in a departmentalized 5th grade classroom.