

Illinois Middle Grades Endorsements

New changes in effect as of February 1, 2018

New middle grades endorsements will be earned by completing an approved middle grades program which includes 21 semester hours of content-specific coursework, 3 semester hours of content-specific methodology coursework focused on the middle grades and pass the applicable content-area test(s).

All new middle grades endorsements will be added to PEL for grades 5-8 regardless of type of PEL that they hold.

Educators can apply for the current middle school endorsement under the current requirements up until 11:59 p.m. on January 31, 2018. If they do not meet all of the requirements they will receive a deficiency letter that will be valid for two fiscal years.

NEW refers to the first middle school or middle grades endorsement an educator has ever earned

SUBSEQUENT refers to an additional endorsement added by an educator who already holds a middle school or middle grades endorsement

➔ All **new** middle grades endorsements require completion of a full/focused approved program through a recognized university as of February 1, 2018.

Exception:

An Educator with a PreK-Age 21 PEL or K-12 PEL just needs 21 hours in a content area, 3 hours in middle grades methods, the content area test and the general middle grades test (this test can be waived with one year of teaching in grades 5-8).

➔ All **subsequent** middle grades endorsements require 21 hours in a content area, 3 hours in middle grades methods, the content area test and the general middle grades test (this test can be waived with one year of teaching in grades 5-8).

Exception:

Educators who hold a junior high endorsement and who want to add a new middle grades endorsement need to go through a focused program to determine whether or not they have completed the appropriate middle grade coursework.

All educators are grandfathered in with the current junior high or middle school endorsements that they hold.

Please see "The Future of Illinois Middle Grades" reference guide for additional information and various example scenarios