

GIFTED EDUCATION TEACHER ENDORSEMENTS

Endorsements may be added to an Illinois educator license when educators meet specific coursework and testing requirements. Two new endorsements relative to gifted education are described in Illinois Administrative Rule 25.100 (I):

Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement and Gifted Education Specialist Endorsement

The Gifted Education Teacher endorsement (valid for the grade range of the teaching endorsement) may be used to provide instruction in a gifted education program, while the Gifted Education Specialist endorsement (valid for Pre K-Grade 12) may be used to provide instruction to students and provide both technical assistance and professional development to other educators. Please note that neither the Gifted Education Teacher nor the Gifted Education Specialist endorsements are required for employment at this time. **The Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement will not be available on ELIS until mid-October.** Endorsement procedures are set out below.

Gifted Education Teacher Endorsement

Special provisions for applications received by Feb. 1, 2015

Educators who complete an ISBE-sponsored Gifted Education Seminar or receive recognition as a state-certified Gifted Education Seminar Trainer **by Jan. 31, 2015**, and can document four years of teaching experience in public or recognized non-public schools may apply for the endorsement under special provisions until Feb. 1, 2015. Individuals who meet the above requirements and pass the National Evaluation Series (NES) Gifted Education Test within one calendar year of application are eligible to receive the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement.

Q: How do I apply for the Gifted Education Teacher endorsement?

A: The Gifted Education Teacher endorsement will not be available on ELIS until mid-October. Beginning in mid-October you must apply using the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) located on the Illinois State Board of Education website at <http://www.isbe.net/ELIS/>.

Q: Is there an application fee for the endorsement?

A: Yes. The application fee is \$50 and must be submitted electronically using a credit card or debit card.

Q: How do I verify that I completed the Gifted Institute?

A: You will need to submit a copy of your certificate of completion to ISBE. **Please include your IEIN at the top of the copy.** Mail the copy to the Illinois State Board of Education, 100 North First Street, N-242, Springfield, IL 62777. If you cannot locate your certificate, you can contact your [Regional Office of Education \(ROE\)](#) to see if they have a copy.

Q: How do I verify that I completed the Gifted Education Seminar (GES)?

A: ISBE has a record on file and you need not submit any documentation for the GES.

Q: I took a three semester hour course at a university. Can I count the course in lieu of the Institute or GES?

A: No. Illinois Administrative Rules do not allow for this option.

Q: When will the NES Gifted Education Test be available for the first time?

A: The computer-based test will be available beginning Sept. 15, 2014.

Q: What standards are covered on the NES Gifted Education Test?

A: The test consists of 150 multiple-choice questions based on national gifted standards.

Q: How do I prepare to take the NES Gifted Education Test?

A: Practice materials including domains and sample questions are available at http://www.nestest.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/NT312_PrepMaterials.html. A full-length practice test will be available in the summer of 2015. In addition, information on how to prepare for a computer-based test may be found at https://www.testing.nesinc.com/cbttutorial/tutorial/Tutorial_Page_1.html.

Q: How do I register for the NES Gifted Education Test?

A: Visit the NES website at <https://www.nestest.com/App/SignInForm.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApp%2fRegister%2fIdentityConfirmation.asp>

Q: How much does the NES Gifted Education Test cost?

A: It costs \$95. Please note that you must first select the test and remit payment using a credit card or a debit card. After completing the first step, you may select a date and location to test.

Q: What testing locations are available?

A: The Gifted Education Test is available at any Pearson Vue Center or authorized test site. Go to <http://www.pearsonvue.com/NES/locate> and enter your home address to find a convenient location.

Q: How often can I take the NES Gifted Education Test? How many attempts do I get to pass it?

A: Unlike other educator tests, you must wait 30 days between test attempts. There is no limit to the number of times you can take the NES Gifted Education Test.

Q: On what days is the test available?

A: Availability is determined on a "first-come, first-served" basis at each testing site. Tests are generally available Monday-Saturday and many sites offer evening hours.

Q: How long do I have to complete the test?

A: Three hours.

Q: How long will it take to receive an official score report?

A: Unofficial scores will be displayed immediately upon completion of the test. An official score report will be sent to you electronically within two weeks of testing.

Q: What if I do not complete an ISBE-sponsored Gifted Education Seminar or receive recognition as a state-certified Gifted Education Seminar Trainer by Jan. 31, 2015?

A: If that is the case, this option will not be available. You may, however, elect to complete an Illinois-approved program for Gifted Education Teacher or Gifted Education Specialist. Currently, no such programs are approved. Please contact an institution of higher education to express interest in such a program.

Q: What are the requirements to add a Gifted Education Teacher endorsement for individuals who did not meet the requirements specified in 25.100 (I) (1) (B)?

A: An individual would need to complete the following requirements outlined in 25.100 (I) 1 (A):

- o pass the NES Gifted Education content-area test; and

- complete a minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate coursework at an Illinois institution with an approved gifted education program.

GIFTED EDUCATION SPECIALIST ENDORSEMENT

Q: What are the requirements to add a Gifted Education Specialist endorsement?

A: As there are no approved programs for Gifted Education Specialist, it is currently not possible to obtain this endorsement. If you are interested in the Gifted Education Specialist endorsement, please contact an Illinois institution of higher education. The requirements necessary to earn this endorsement are outlined in 25.100 (l) (2) (A)-(D) and include:

- ✓ hold a professional educator license endorsed at any of the grade levels of early childhood, elementary, middle or secondary education, or for special K-12;
- ✓ document a minimum of two years of teaching experience on the above license involving the education of gifted students;
- ✓ hold a master's degree or higher degree awarded by a regionally accredited institution of higher education;
- ✓ complete an Illinois-approved gifted education specialist preparation program for prekindergarten through grade 12, including clinical experiences required in 25.100 (l) (2) (B); and
- ✓ pass the NES Gifted Education Test.