



Illinois State Board of Education

Previous Qualification FAQ

Previous qualifications can be added to the ELIS accounts of educators who first became qualified to teach a subject and grade range on or before June 30, 2004. The educator may qualify with 16 semester hours of coursework in the applicable content area. (Note that Safety and Driver's Education requires a specific distribution of courses.) All coursework must have been completed through a regionally accredited institution with a grade of C- or higher prior to July 1, 2004. Remedial coursework (which is normally below the 100 level) cannot be used for this credit. Educators completing requirements for a subject area on or after July 1, 2004, must meet the current requirements and cannot be deemed "previously qualified." These educators must hold the applicable endorsement on their license to be assigned to teach the subject. A licensure specialist, regional superintendent, or assistant regional superintendent may complete the evaluation. Please use this document to assist you with frequently asked questions regarding previous qualifications.

Educators

- 1. If I did not used to qualify for a previous qualification, can I request a new evaluation?**
 - a. Yes, you may request a new evaluation if you were denied a previous qualification under the old requirements.
- 2. Must all my coursework be completed prior to July 1, 2004?**
 - a. Yes, all coursework must have been completed prior to July 1, 2004, and your license must have been originally issued prior to July 1, 2004.
- 3. How do I know if need a previous qualification evaluation?**
 - a. If you are serving in a position based upon being previously qualified, you must have the designation on your ELIS account.
- 4. In the past, I was granted a previous qualification designation for a specific area but the updated previous qualifications allows for further flexibility. Can I request an evaluation for the new content area?**
 - a. You may request an evaluation for a different area, but you must meet the applicable requirements in order to qualify.
- 5. I completed coursework in a specific content area in the past, but the area is not listed on the new previous qualification document. Can I still get a previous qualification in the old content area?**
 - a. If you are serving in a position that requires a previous qualification that you do not currently have on your ELIS account, you will need to align the position with the current qualification areas offered.

ROEs/Districts

- 1. Does an educator need a previous qualification designation for every content area he or she may qualify for?**
 - a. No, an educator only needs to have a previous qualification designation if the educator is assigned to that content area based upon being previously qualified.

- 2. Can an educator with a Social Science: History previous qualification designation qualify to teach all Social Science areas except AP/Honors?**
 - a. No, this assignment flexibility is only for endorsement holders. Educators with the previously qualification designation can only teach that assigned content area.
- 3. Can an educator add a previous qualification outside the grade range of their original certificate?**
 - a. Yes, the intention of the rule change was to provide additional flexibilities for licensure and streamline the process. The new previous qualification grade ranges align with our current grade range today; therefore, there may be an instance where the educator gets a larger grade range than they originally had.
- 4. When is the deadline for the previous qualification to be added to the educator's account if he or she is assigned to teach a content area based upon being previously qualified?**
 - a. Per Part 1, beginning July 1, 2025, all educators must have a previous qualification designation on their account if assigned to a content area based upon being previously qualified.
- 5. Who should I reach out to if I have questions about a previous qualification evaluation I am working on?**
 - a. You can reach out to your ISBE liaison for any questions regarding an evaluation.
- 6. What is the issued date when entering a previous qualification in ELIS?**
 - a. The issued date is the day you completed the evaluation and determined the educator was qualified. For example, if you completed a previous qualification evaluation today, you would use today's date as the issued date.
- 7. Can I use a methods course toward the 16-semester hour coursework requirement?**
 - a. Yes, methods coursework can count toward the 16-semester hour requirement.
- 8. Can English as a Second Language coursework be used toward a Middle Grades Language Arts evaluation?**
 - a. No, coursework must fall under the acceptable areas of coursework for Language Arts. You can refer to our [Acceptable Areas of Coursework](#) document for more information.
- 9. Can an educator receive a refund if he or she applied for an endorsement but find out they qualify for a previous qualification?**
 - a. In order to receive a refund, the educator must meet our department's refund requirements. You can review our refund requirements [here](#).