

Illinois Early Learning Council Quality Committee Recommendations re: Senate Bill 1829

These recommendations from the Quality Committee of the Early Learning Council are in response to the concerns raised in Senate Bill 1829. This work was done at the request of Senator Hutchinson (letter attached) and the Illinois Early Learning Council Executive Committee. The recommendations are designed to address the challenges in hiring qualified staff by increasing the pool of available teachers for Preschool For All (PFA) classrooms outside of public schools and would expand the Emergency Rule cited below.

Currently: A teacher of preschool children in the PFA program may alternatively meet one of the following requirements:

- 1. A teacher must hold a current Professional Educator License (PEL) with an Early Childhood endorsement, or**
- 2. Under ISBE Emergency Rules 25.430 *Short-Term Approval for Teachers at All Grade Levels*— A teacher must hold a current PEL and have passed the ECE content test or have 9 semester hours of ECE course content.**

Proposed Additions:

- 3. A teacher must hold a current Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5 and obtain a PEL with an Early Childhood endorsement within five years of hire, or**
- 4. A teacher must hold a (provisional) Type 29 Transitional Bilingual License and have passed the ECE Content Test or have 9 semester hours of ECE course content and obtain a PEL with an Early Childhood endorsement within five years of hire.**

ISBE modified Part 25 of the current rules on short term assignments so that a teacher with nine credit hours in a content area may teach in that content area and the teacher has three years to complete the coursework requirements for the endorsement. In order to ensure that districts have the greatest flexibility, districts can either use the nine-hour requirement or successful completion of an appropriate content test.

The Illinois Gateways to Opportunity ECE Credential Level 5 requires a bachelor's degree and 30 semester hours of ECE content. There has been significant work on the development of a coherent system of ECE credentials, based on competencies and shared assessments. The Illinois Gateways Credentials already are in Administrative Rule, allowing for the systemic embedding of these credentials into early childhood program requirements. ISBE recognized the credential's concentration of ECE content knowledge when it required, through Part 26, that all Illinois teacher preparation programs leading to a Professional Educator License with an early childhood endorsement must integrate the Gateways ECE Credential Level 5 content into their approved programs by July 2019.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) allows the Type 29 Transitional Bilingual License as a pathway to teaching transitional bilingual courses in a Pre-K through Grade 12 setting and English as a Second Language (ESL) in Kindergarten through Grade 6. Allowing PFA programs to employ Type 29 teachers as provisional educators recognizes that home language serves as an essential medium for a child to meaningfully access ECE experience. To ensure consistency in quality through early childhood specific preparation, it is proposed that PFA Rules accept the Type 29 licensure with the additional requirement that either the teacher have 9 semester hours of ECE course content or pass the ECE Content Test.

See link <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Educator-License-with-Stipulations.aspx>