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TEACHING SPECIAL EDUCATION

In order to teach special education, an individual must hold a valid Professional Educator's License (PEL) endorsed in Special Education (LBS1 endorsement). The requirements for obtaining an LBS1 endorsement are:

- A passing score on the LBS1 (155) test; registration available here http://www.il.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html
- Completion of coursework in **each** of the following areas:
 - Survey of the exceptional child
 - General characteristics of children with disabilities within the LBS1 scope
 - General methods for teaching children with disabilities within the LBS1 scope
 - Psychological assessment of children with disabilities within the LBS1 scope

Some regionally accredited institutions require one course for each area listed above, others require multiple courses for each area. Contact the institution you plan to complete your coursework at to ensure you are completing their specific program requirements. If you have previous coursework you believe should count toward these areas, have your transcript evaluated by the institution where you are completing your program. For more information on Special Education certification, please visit the ISBE website: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Special-Education-Requirements.aspx>

NOTE: If an educator holds a valid PEL without the LBS1 endorsement and is looking to fill a vacant Special Education position, or an educator with a PEL-LBS1 and is looking to fill a vacant Special Education position outside of their endorsed grade range, they may qualify for the **Short-Term Emergency Approval**. This would allow them to teach Special Education without the LBS1 endorsement while they work toward meeting the necessary requirements to complete the LBS1. Please see the information on the Short-Term Emergency Approval or contact the Regional Office of Education.

For questions regarding this process, please call the Regional Office of Education at 309-734-6822 and ask for Brittany Stegall, or email her at bstegall@roe33.net.