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## **TEACHING SUBJECT-SPECIFIC CLASSES GRADES 6-12**

### **To teach subject-specific courses in the middle grades:**

In order to teach the middle grades, an educator must have completed a middle grades specific education program at a regionally accredited institution or hold a Professional Educator's License (PEL) endorsed in Special Teaching K-12 or Special Education PreK-12. The educator must also hold an endorsement for the subject being taught for 50% or more of the school day (major assignment). If the educator is teaching a subject for less than 50% of the school day (minor assignment), they need to hold a middle grades endorsement for any subject and have completed a minimum of 6 semester hours of college coursework in the subject to be taught as the minor assignment.

If an educator **does** hold an endorsement for a middle grades subject and wish to teach a subject as a major assignment that they are not endorsed for, they can add an endorsement by meeting the requirements listed on the ISBE website: <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/MiddleGradesTeachingEndorsements.aspx>

If an educator **does not** hold an endorsement for a middle grades subject (i.e., has not completed a middle grades program), they must **first** complete a middle grades program at a regionally accredited institution in order to add a middle grades endorsement to their PEL.

### **To teach subject-specific courses at the secondary level:**

In order to teach at the secondary level, an educator must have completed an education program at a regionally accredited institution and hold a senior high endorsement in the subject they wish to teach.

If an educator **does** hold an endorsement at the secondary level and was first assigned to a secondary level teaching position in a subject other than their endorsement on or after July 1, 2004, the educator must have completed 24 semester hours of college coursework in the subject area to be taught. They must also be working to meet the full endorsement requirements of that subject within 3 years of the position assignment. The requirements for adding a secondary endorsement to a PEL are listed on the ISBE website:

<https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Senior-High-Teaching-Endorsements.aspx>

Library information specialist and foreign language courses only require 9 semester hours of coursework.

If an educator **does not** hold an endorsement for a secondary level subject (i.e., has not completed a secondary level program), they must **first** complete a secondary level program at a regionally accredited institution in order to add a secondary level endorsement to their PEL.

**NOTE:** If an educator needs to immediately fill a vacant teaching position outside of their approved endorsements or valid grade range, they may be able to apply for a **Short-Term Approval**. This would allow them to teach outside of their content area or grade range while they work toward meeting the necessary endorsement requirements. Please see the information on the Short-Term 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](mailto:bstegall@roe33.net).