

Questions from the Illinois Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators to
the Illinois State Board of Education/Jason Helfer

Fall 2015 Meeting Conference Call

- **The deadlines, as stated in legislation seem overlapping and bewildering. Will there be a more clearly articulated document regarding those deadlines forthcoming? Can you clarify what the dates for submission, enrollment in current program, sunset of current program are?** Beginning September 1, 2017, no candidate shall be admitted into an “old” program. “Old” programs must be completed by September 1, 2019 and have the endorsement issued by September 1, 2020. New programs are effective September 1, 2019.
- **Are there deadlines after which institutions can not submit proposals for existing and new ECE?** New programs are effective September 1, 2019. You need to have a new program in place by this time if your institution already has an “old” ECH program in place.
- There are key developmental and curricular issues in the 0-grade 2 arrange. Courses offered PK-12 do not serve either end of the developmental continuum well.

In state-level redesign plans, will k-12 teaching fields like art, music, physical education, reading specialist, special education, etc continue to be a k-12 endorsement from finishing an approved k-12 program, or will the teaching fields and their approved programs be broken up into 3 separate endorsements and programs - e.g., a different program for each: elementary grade music, for example, middle grade music, high school music. **K-12 programs will remain.**

- As we work to better integrate special education and bilingual content into our programs, do you have a recommendation as to the guidance to which we should refer for those disciplines, given that standards are still under development in the state for both disciplines? **Identify current best practices found in research as this what standards would be based upon.**

- Do we know how special education and bilingual/esl will dovetail with early childhood and when? **No.**
- Why must PK-12 courses be offered to Early Childhood candidates, if the ECE license will be effective only up through grade 2 for the ESL/BE and LBS1 Endorsements? **Our division discussed this issue recently and policy changed; this was communicated in the newsletter that was sent to deans, chairs and licensure officers. LBSI coursework must only span the grade range of the LBSI endorsement that will be awarded. So, for ECH: K-3**
- What will happen to the Early Childhood Special Education Approval moving forward? **It is still being issued. I have not heard any plans to discontinue it.**
- Do faculty who are active in scholarship and professional development need an up-to-date IL license in order to supervise student teachers in 0-grade 2? **No, but cooperating teachers do.**
- Three programs (UIC, Judson and Lewis) have ECE/ECSE blended certification programs that prepare students for both ECE and ECSE from birth through third grade. The way those programs are accredited is through alignment with the IPTS standards and the Illinois Content Standards for Early Childhood Special Educators (at the time those standards were developed the content standards for ECE educators were 'embedded'). Students in those programs take content test 152 (ECSE) not the ECE test. Now that the standards for ECE educators have been revised, are they still considered 'embedded' and should these programs wait to complete program redesigns until the revised content standards for ECSE teachers are completed. **In my opinion, they should revise once special ed standards are finalized. We need to add specific requirements for "Early childhood special ed" to Rule instead of them just piecing together requirements from ECH and SPED.**
- Districts are demanding ECH teachers who have ESL and SED credentials. Are there restrictions with respect to number of degree credit hours for initial licensure programs, in light of this increasing demand from schools and the required increase in content from ISBE as the credentialing agency? **. Educators who hold early childhood endorsements can add subsequent endorsements within the K-3 or B-3 grade range in ESL and SPED by completing coursework in specific areas and for LBSI, passing a content test.**

- Are there discussion regarding limiting the number of licensure programs in Illinois? **No.**
- When will members of SEPLB get feedback from the colleagues they represent about new rules being proposed before they vote on recommending them to the state board? **SEPLB members represent their various organizations. Thus, should you have concerns, please contact your representative (e.g., IACTE).**
- Are there plans for changing the grade ranges of early childhood and/or elementary after SEPLB members raised the issue recently? **Concern about grade ranges for ECE and ELEM has been shared with ISBE by a variety of stakeholders. Should ISBE determine that a modification to rule is necessary, the rule making process requires that citizens are able to share public comment to support or oppose the proposed modification.**
- What is the status of ISBE and CAEP? **ISBE is working on modifications to Part 25 Subpart C that would identify the CAEP standards as those used by Illinois for the approval and reauthorization of programs. Once these rules become effective, ISBE can sign its state agreement with CAEP.**