

Illinois Alternative and Resident Teacher Certification Programs

In 1999, Illinois established three processes leading to alternative certification for individuals who have a degree from an accredited college and related work experience. A resident teacher certification program was also established that leads to a master's degree in education.

There are two alternative certification processes for teachers and one for administrators, as well as a resident teacher certification option:

- Alternative Teacher Certification
- Alternative Route to Teacher Certification
- Alternative Route to Administrative Certification
- Resident Teacher Certification Programs

The [Directory of Approved Programs for the Preparation of Educational Personnel in Illinois Higher Education](http://www.isbe.net/profprep/PDFs/Directory.pdf) (www.isbe.net/profprep/PDFs/Directory.pdf) provides a list of the approved certification programs for each of the listed institutions, as well as the names and contact information for the institutional representatives.

The [Illinois School Code](http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs2.asp?ChapterID=17) is a component of the Illinois Compiled Statutes and is available on the Illinois General Assembly website at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs2.asp?ChapterID=17>.

The [Illinois Administrative Rules](http://www.isbe.net/rules/default.htm) can be found on the Illinois State Board of Education website at <http://www.isbe.net/rules/default.htm>.

To offer an alternative certification program, Illinois colleges and universities must have an approved teacher preparation program in the area of specialization and receive State approval for the revised program. A Comparison Chart of the requirements for the alternative and resident teacher certification programs is available on the State Board of Education website at http://www.isbe.net/certificaton/pdf/alternative_comparison.pdf.

The following Illinois higher education institutions offer approved alternative and/or resident teacher certification programs:

Institution	Program	Illinois School Code	Administrative Rules
Benedictine University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
Chicago State University	Resident Teacher	105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 & 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4	Section 25.442
Concordia University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification Resident Teacher	105 ILCS 5/21-5c 105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 & 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4	Section 25.67 Section 25.442
DePaul University	Resident Teacher	105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 & 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4	Section 25.442
Dominican University	Alternative Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5b	Section 24.65
Eastern Illinois University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
Governors State University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
Illinois State University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
McKendree University	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
National-Louis University	Alternative Certification Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5b 105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 24.65 Section 25.67
Northern Illinois University	Resident Teacher	105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 & 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4	Section 25.442
Northwestern Illinois University	Alternative Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5b	Section 24.65
Rockford College	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
Southern Illinois University Carbondale	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
University of Illinois at Chicago	Alternative Route to Teacher Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5c	Section 25.67
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Alternative Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5b	Section 24.65
Western Illinois University	Alternative Route to Administrative Certification	105 ILCS 5/21-5d	Section 25.313

SUMMARY OF THE ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Alternative Teacher Certification: Illinois School Code: 105 ILCS 5/21-5b

The Alternative Teacher Certification program must be provided by a partnership that includes a recognized institution that offers a baccalaureate and master's degree program, and one or more not-for-profit organizations. The program is limited to 260 participants per year.

Certification Program:

I. A one-year nonrenewable provisional alternative teaching certificate will be issued when the participant meets all of the following criteria:

- Graduated from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree.
- Employed for five years in an area requiring application of the participant's education.
(Exception: **Work experience is not required for teaching certificates limited to Chicago.**)
- Passed the Illinois basic skills and subject matter knowledge tests.

First Phase: Successfully completed an intensive course of study in education theory, instructional methods and practice teaching.

II. The participant must then complete the following:

Second Phase: Full-time teaching for one school year, and

Third Phase: A comprehensive assessment of the participant's teaching performance by school officials and partnership members, and recommendation for certification by the partnering higher education institution.

As of February 15, 2000, individuals completing the requirements under this section will be issued a nonrenewable Initial Alternative Teaching Certificate valid for four years of teaching. After completing four years of teaching, individuals may apply for the Standard Teaching Certificate.

Individuals holding a renewable standard alternative teaching certificate, which was issued prior to February 15, 2000, and is only valid for teaching in Chicago, may apply for the Standard Teaching Certificate after completing four years of teaching.

Alternative Route to Teacher Certification: Illinois School Code: 105 ILCS 5/21-5c

The program must be provided by a recognized institution and may be offered in conjunction with one or more not-for-profit organizations. The alternative program must include the content and skills of the institution's current program.

Certification Program:

I. A one-year nonrenewable provisional alternative teaching certificate will be issued when the participant meets all of the following criteria:

- Graduated from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree.
- Employed for at least five years in an area requiring application of the participant's education.
- Passed the Illinois basic skills and subject matter knowledge tests.

First Phase: Successfully completed an intensive course of study in education theory, instructional methods and practice teaching.

II. The participant must then complete the following:

Second Phase: Full-time teaching position for one school year with the advice and assistance of a mentor teacher, and

Third Phase: A comprehensive assessment of the participant's teaching performance by school officials and program participants and recommendation for certification by the higher education institution.

A nonrenewable Initial Teaching Certificate, valid for four years, will be issued following completion of the three phases. After completing four years of teaching, individuals may apply for the Standard Teaching Certificate.

Resident Teacher Certification: Illinois School Code: 105 ILCS 5/21-11.3 and 105 ILCS 5/21-11.4

The Resident Teacher Certification program may only be offered by an accredited institution that offers an approved Master's in Education program in partnership with school district(s) to prepare resident teachers.

The programs are designed to ensure *resident teachers* have the opportunity to earn an Initial certificate within three summers and two academic years. In 2002, the statute was changed to allow resident teachers to serve in a public school for four years under the resident teacher certificate. Upon completion of the four years of service and the master's degree program, the teacher may be issued a Standard certificate.

Certification Program:

- I. A Resident Teacher Certificate valid for four years of employment in a public school will be issued when the participant meets all of the following criteria:
 - Graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree with a 3.0 out of a 4.0 GPA.
 - Provides proof of five years of professional work experiences in the area the applicant wishes to teach.
Exception to the work experience: Complete a one year internship teacher preparation program which has been developed by the higher education institution and school district and has been approved by the State Board.
 - Passed the Illinois basic skills test and the content-area test for the certification area.
 - Enrolls in a Master's of Education degree program that is approved by the State Board of Education.
 - Completes a six-week summer intensive teacher preparation course which is the first component of the Master's degree program.
- II. The resident teacher must then complete the program requirements which include being mentored by a certified teacher assigned by the school district.
 - Teacher preparation coursework leading to a Master's of Education.
 - Pass the Assessment of Professional Teaching

Individuals completing the requirements for the teaching certificate will be issued an Initial Teaching Certificate. The holder of the resident teacher certificate may be issued a Standard Teaching Certificate if he/she completes four years of teaching, passes the State certification assessments, and earns a master's degree in education.

Alternative Route to Administrative Certification: Illinois School Code: 105 ILCS 5/21-5d

Alternative administrative certification programs must include the content and skills of the institution's program and are limited to a standard administrative certificate with a limited general administrative endorsement, chief school business official endorsement, or superintendent endorsement. The alternative certification route excludes certification to serve as a principal or an assistant principal.

Certification Program:

- I. A one-year nonrenewable provisional alternative administrative certificate will be issued when the participant meets all of the following criteria:
 - Graduated from an accredited college or university with a master's degree in a management field or with a bachelor's degree and life experience equivalent to a master's degree in a management field.
 - Employed for five years in a management level position.
 - Passed the Illinois basic skills test and the administrative subject matter exam.

First Phase: Successfully completed an intensive course of study in education management, governance, organization and planning.
- II. The participant must then complete the following:

Second Phase: Full-time administrative position for one school year, and

Third Phase: A comprehensive performance assessment conducted by school officials and recommendation for certification by the institution.

A renewable standard administrative certificate with a (limited) general administrative endorsement, chief school business official endorsement, or superintendent endorsement will be issued following completion of the three phases.