

DRAFT UPDATE

Professional Personnel

Certified Staff Qualifications

A certified staff member, as the term is used in this policy, refers to a Cooperative employee who is required to be certified under State law. The following qualifications apply:

1. Each certified staff member must:
 - a. Have a valid Illinois certificate that legally qualifies the staff member for the duties for which the staff member is employed.
 - b. Provide the Cooperative Office with a complete official transcript of credits earned in institutions of higher education.
 - c. On or before November 15 and March 15 of each year, provide the Cooperative Office with an official transcript of any credits earned since the date the last transcript was filed.
2. All certified staff members with primary responsibility for instructing students in the core academic subject areas (science, the arts, reading or language arts, English, history, civics and government, economics, geography, foreign language, and mathematics) must be *highly qualified* for those assignments as determined by State and federal law.

The Executive Director or designee shall:

1. Monitor compliance with State and federal law requirements that certified staff members be appropriately certified and *highly qualified* for their assignments when required, and
2. Through incentives for voluntary transfers, professional development, recruiting programs, or other effective strategies, ensure that minority students and students from low-income families are not taught at higher rates than other students by unqualified, out-of-field, or inexperienced teachers.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6319.
34 C.F.R. §200.55, 56, 57, and 61.
105 ILCS 5/10-20.15, ~~5/21-1~~, 5/21-10, 5/21-11.4, 5/21B-20, and 5/24-~~23~~.
23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq., and Part 25.

ADOPTED: April 4, 2012

Comment [AKL1]: This policy is updated in the Legal References in response to P.A. 97-607. We also anticipate this policy will be renamed after ISBE implements the new Article 21B licensure system in P.A. 97-607.

P.A. 97-607 repealed 105 ILCS 5/21-0.01 et seq. and added Article 21B titled *Educator Licensure* to the School Code. 23 Ill.Admin.Code §1.610 et seq., §1.705 et seq. and Part 25 still refer to this repealed section of the School Code. *Teacher certification* will become *educator licensure* on or before July 1, 2013 (P.A. 97-607). Once the licensure system is operational, all certified employees will automatically be transitioned to having the corresponding applicable licensure. School boards may participate in the Illinois Teacher Corps; however as of Sept. 1, 2011 individuals may no longer be admitted to Illinois Teacher Corps programs (105 ILCS 5/21-11.4, amended by P.A. 97-607 and scheduled to be repealed on June 30, 2013). Issue 78, January 2012