



# Illinois State Board of Education

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Christopher A. Koch, Ed.D.  
State Superintendent of Education

December 21, 2011

TO: District Superintendents and Directors of Human Resources  
FROM: Linda Jamali, Division Administrator, Educator Certification  
RE: Lapsed Certificates

PA 97-0607 was signed into law on August 26, 2011. This legislation made numerous changes to the educator certification process. One of the changes, which became effective immediately with the Governor's signature, applies to 21B-45. This states that *all certificates not renewed or registered shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the expiration of the last year of registration*. The certificate(s) may be reinstated once the applicant has paid all applicable registration back fees and demonstrated proficiency by completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally accredited institution of higher education in the content area that most closely aligns with the educator's endorsement area(s)..

Because this provision of the legislation went into effect upon the Governor's signature, and there was not ample time to ensure that all educators were compliant with the new requirement, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has determined that, until **June 30, 2012**, there will be no recognition action taken against districts for continuing to employ an educator whose certificate(s) has lapsed.

In addition, from this point forward, districts should not hire any certified staff members who do not hold a valid, registered certificate. Educator credentials should be verified on the Educator Certification System (ECS). Please note that there may be a difference between a "renewal" date and a "registration" date. **Districts should always refer to the "registration" date for verification of a valid certificate.**

If your district has educators with lapsed certificates, please instruct these individuals to complete ISBE form 73-93A (Reinstatement) and ISBE form 73-10 (Registration). They should then forward these two forms to the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Educator Certification, 100 North First Street, S-306, Springfield, Illinois 62777. They must also include an official transcript documenting 9 semester hours in the area of endorsement(s) from a regionally accredited institution of higher education. All transcripts will be reviewed, and any applicable coursework taken in the previous five years may count. Educators will be notified as to whether or not the coursework meets the requirements to reinstate a lapsed certificate. Also, before the certificate can be registered, each individual must pay the total amount of all back fees. Educators should contact their [Regional Office of Education](#) to determine how much they owe in back fees.

Please understand that ISBE does not condone the employment of any educator who has not fulfilled his or her professional obligation to maintain a registered certificate; however, we trust that all educators and districts will have any such problems rectified by June 30, 2012. After that date, any district employing one or more educators with unregistered certificates may be subject to recognition action as delineated in 23 Illinois Administrative Code 1.20 (b).

Should you have additional compliance questions related to this memo, please contact your [Regional Office of Education](#) or Jeff Aranowski at [jaranows@isbe.net](mailto:jaranows@isbe.net). Other questions related to certification should be directed to your Regional Office of Education or Nichol Wilson at [nwilson@isbe.net](mailto:nwilson@isbe.net).