

# Pathways to Licensure: English as a Second Language (ESL)



**Are you looking to fill a vacant ESL position in your school?** You may have an educator in your school or district who is already qualified to fill the position! The requirements below outline the most common credentials that educators earn to work in an ESL setting.

## Professional Educator License (PEL) Requirements

**Option 1** — To teach in any of the grades 1-6:

- ✓ PEL + ESL endorsement + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught
- ✓ PEL + ENL endorsement + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught
- ✓ PEL + Bilingual Education + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught
- ✓ PEL + ENL endorsement with a language designation + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught

**Option 2** — To teach in any of the grades 7-12:

- ✓ PEL + ESL endorsement + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught
- ✓ PEL + ENL endorsement + teaching endorsement for the grades to be taught

## Educator License with Stipulations (ELS) Requirements

**Option 1** — ELS-VIT + passing score on the English Language Proficiency test

**Option 2** — ELS-TBE license (valid for grades K-6 only)

## Short-Term Approval (STA) Requirements

### Option 1

STA — ESL

- ✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
- ✓ Nine semester hours of coursework in ESL (specific coursework is required)

### Option 2

STA — Bilingual Education (target language)

Valid for teaching ESL in grades PK-6 only

- ✓ PEL (in a teaching field for any grade range)
- ✓ One of the following:
  - Nine semester hours of coursework in bilingual education (specific coursework is required)
  - A passing score on the applicable Target Language Proficiency test

These approvals are temporary credentials that allow an educator to immediately begin teaching while working toward full licensure requirements.

## Application procedures

View full requirements at  
[www.isbe.net/licensure](http://www.isbe.net/licensure)

1

Create or login  
to your existing  
ELIS account

2

Submit the applicable  
endorsement or  
approval application

3

Pay the \$50  
application fee

4

Submit required  
forms and transcripts  
to your ROE/ISC

5

