



Iowa Board of Educational Examiners

Obtaining Iowa Licensure through Non-Iowa Teacher Preparation

If you are thinking about applying for a teaching position in Iowa, it is important that you begin the process to obtain an Iowa teaching license as soon as possible. The following requirements must be met before applying for Iowa licensure:

- Fully complete your state-approved teacher preparation program through a regionally-accredited institution, including a minimum of a bachelor's degree and all testing requirements in your state.
- Complete all requirements and apply for full licensure in your state (we will not accept a temporary or emergency license from your state).
- Complete coursework requirements to show that you have met at least 75% of our professional education core courses (InTASC standards for pedagogy) and at least 75% of the courses for one of our endorsements. We do not allow endorsements to be added through testing. We do not have an alternative pathway for early childhood or elementary educators.
- **Complete the assessment requirements for Iowa, which are typically different than in your state. Iowa requires two Praxis II tests or edTPA for new graduates.** Note: we do not have any type of temporary or emergency licensure while you wait to pass the required assessments in Iowa. This process can take many months, so it is best to **begin testing four to six months prior to applying for licensure in Iowa.**
- **Submit a complete application at least six to eight weeks before licensure is required.** This includes your official transcripts, recommendation from your licensing official, copies of passing test scores for Iowa, full out-of-state license (or verification that the application is in process), and your background check materials.

Other helpful tips:

www.teachiowa.gov – all education job openings in Iowa are posted to this site (in addition to other local sites).

www.boee.iowa.gov – website for the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners. We are a separate licensing board independent from the Iowa Department of Education. Choose “licensure forms/applications – apply for a new license”.

The application is online and you will be prompted for each requirement. Make sure your documents are visible when uploaded. Transcripts should say “official transcripts” or “issued to student”. We cannot accept unofficial transcripts. The background check is required even if you have had one in another state.

If you wish to also substitute teach, you do not need to apply for a separate substitute license. Your Iowa teaching license may be used to teach or substitute teach.

Contact: David Wempen (david.wempen@iowa.gov) Middle School/High School endorsements

Dr. Linda Espey (linda.espey@iowa.gov) Early Childhood and Elementary endorsements