

Requirements to be Considered Highly Qualified by the Federal *No Child Left Behind* Standards April 15, 2005

Pursuant to the *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001 (*NCLB*), teachers of core academic subjects (i.e., science, arts, reading, English/language arts, history, civics and government, economics, geography, foreign language, and mathematics) funded by Title I must meet specific requirements to be considered highly qualified. All teachers newly hired after the first day of the 2002-2003 school year must be highly qualified. **All teachers of core academic subjects must meet these requirements by the end of the 2005-06 school year, whether serving in a program or position funded by Title I or not.** The highly qualified standards do not eliminate the state requirements for assignment to a position; state assignment regulations are still in effect and all districts are expected to comply with the rules at 23 Illinois Administrative Code. Please remember, the “Highly Qualified” status applies to the teacher only in the context of a specific content area assignment in which the teacher has demonstrated he/she possesses the NCLB required competence.

The federal law mandates that the teacher must have an Initial, or Standard certificate, or a provisional version of these, without any waivers of requirements **and meet any** of the following standards in each core subject to which he/she is assigned:

- A major indicated on the transcript, or 32 semester hours of subject area content
- An advanced degree in the subject
- An advanced certificate in the subject (an Illinois master certificate for the grade level and subject meets this requirement)
- A pass result on a state examination in the subject
- Complying with the requirements of **HOUSSE**, the High Objective Uniform State Standard of Evaluation, **an option available only to veteran teachers.**

Note: Elementary teachers new to the profession may demonstrate they meet the highly qualified standard only by **passing a state examination.**

The following information outlines criteria in several areas – elementary, middle grades, secondary and special education. It addresses those **criteria for teachers new to the profession** and outlines the **HOUSSE** process **for veteran teachers** in each area.

Certificate Requirements Relating to the Highly Qualified Status

All early childhood (age 0-grade 3), elementary (K-9), special (K-12 or Preschool-Age 21 in special education) and secondary certificates (grades 6-12) issued since July 1, 1988, have required a test of basic skills and a test of subject matter knowledge. The subject matter knowledge test either relates to the major area of the certificate or, in the case of the secondary certificate, to an endorsement area. Therefore all elementary and early childhood certificate holders since 1988 are highly qualified for a general classroom assignment; on the other hand, teachers who, during the exchange of four year certificates for standard five year certificates, received an early childhood certificate endorsed only for children age 0 to age 6 excluding kindergarten are not authorized to teach at the kindergarten-primary grade level.

Since the elementary/middle grades test also covers the required content of the middle grades subjects, persons who pass this test are highly qualified in all middle grades subjects. Holders of secondary certificates are highly qualified in the test area and are also highly qualified in any other area where they have a major.

The endorsement structure for the secondary level that became effective on July 1, 2004, requires that the certificate holder have either a major (or 32 semester hours) *or* 24 hours and a content area test for each endorsement appearing on the certificate. If you have one of those endorsements on your secondary certificate, you are highly qualified in that subject area. The special certificate has always required a major of 32 semester hours in the area of concentration or endorsement; since 1988 it has also required a subject matter test in the area of endorsement. Therefore the special certificate K-12 has always met the highly qualified requirements in the area of endorsement or concentration.

Special Education Teachers

The Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires special education teachers to have a full certificate in special education *or* to have passed the special education certification test and to hold a special education certificate. Any individual who holds an LBSI endorsement in special education, whether on a special preschool to age 21 certificate or on an elementary or secondary certificate has met this requirement.

Any special education teacher who is the teacher of record for a core academic area course must also meet the highly qualified requirements of NCLB for the subject. Individuals who teach children to alternate achievement standards are expected to meet the content knowledge requirements applicable to the level of achievement. For example, a secondary special education teacher of record with students working at the middle grades achievement level is expected to meet the content knowledge requirements of a middle grades teacher.

Special education teachers new to the profession functioning as the teacher of record for two or more core academic areas and who meet the highly qualified requirement in language arts, mathematics or science have two years from the date of employment to meet the requirements in the remaining areas, including through HOUSSE.

A veteran special education teacher, one who has at least one year of teaching experience, who teaches multiple core academic subjects may use any of the options, including HOUSSE, to demonstrate competence in core areas.

I. Elementary Teachers: Primary Grades K-4

All teachers of core academic subjects must

1. Have a bachelor's degree,
 2. Hold a certificate for the grade and subject without any waivers,
 3. Meet Illinois requirements for the assignment **and**
 4. Meet any of the following options for primary level teaching:
- ✓ *If you hold the elementary certificate, or the special K-12 certificate with a self contained general education endorsement, and have passed the elementary/middle grades examination offered since 1988, and if you are teaching in a self contained elementary class, then you are highly qualified.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an early childhood certificate endorsed for children age 0 to grade 3, and teach in the primary grades to grade 3 and have passed the early childhood certificate exam, then you are highly qualified.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a special certificate (or an elementary and secondary certificate obtained by splitting a special certificate) and you teach only the endorsement appearing on the certificate that is a core academic subject at the primary grade level, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an appropriate certificate, you are a veteran teacher but have not met one of the above requirements and you can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE**, then you are highly qualified.*

Primary Level Bilingual

If you have either a bilingual endorsement/approval or a transitional bilingual certificate **and**

- hold an elementary certificate or a special K-12 certificate and you have passed the elementary/middle grades examination, or
- hold a special K-12 certificate and you teach only in the 32 hour special subject of the special certificate, or
- have an early childhood certificate endorsed for children age 0 to grade 3, have passed the early childhood examination and teach only grades K-3, or
- you are a veteran teacher, have a certificate valid for the grade level but do not meet the other requirements, and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE**, then you are highly qualified.

Teachers of Bilingual Education Who Hold Only a Transitional Bilingual Certificate

Bilingual education teachers with only a transitional bilingual certificate are not highly qualified since the bilingual certificate is not a regular certificate as is required by *NCLB*. However, those persons who have only transitional bilingual certificates (Type 29) may be considered highly qualified for a period of three years, provided they are preparing to be a teacher under a provision of *NCLB* that recognizes alternative teacher education programs:

- The teacher must be enrolled in an approved teacher education program that is preparing him/her for service at the same grade level as the assignment
- The teacher must finish the program within three years

- The teacher must be receiving high quality professional development and mentoring supplied by the district during the three year period.
- At the end of the three year period, the teacher must hold the certificate or he/she will no longer be considered highly qualified.

Primary English as a Second Language (ESL)/English as a New Language (ENL)

If you hold a transitional bilingual certificate **or** bilingual/ESL/ENL, approval or endorsement **and**

- Hold an elementary certificate or a special K-12 certificate and have passed the elementary/middle grades test *or*
- Hold an early childhood certificate (for K-3), have passed the early childhood test *or*
- Hold an appropriate certificate and have passed the English or English/Language Arts content test *or*
- If you have an appropriate certificate and have passed the ESL or ENL test *or*
- If you hold a special K-12 certificate for ESL/ENL *or*
- If you are a veteran teacher with an elementary or early childhood certificate and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE**, *then you are highly qualified.*

Note to Primary Level ESL/ENL Teachers Assigned to Teach Other Content: ESL/ENL is by definition, English. If you use ESL/ENL as an instructional technique to teach other core academic content to non-English speakers, you will have to hold a bilingual certificate or meet the requirements for ESL/ENL endorsement or approval and meet the highly qualified requirements for the content area(s) to which you are assigned as described under “Primary Grades (K-4)” requirements. For example, if you teach ENL self contained, you must also meet all the requirements of an elementary self contained teacher.

Primary Level HOUSSE

If you are a veteran teacher (have taught more than one year), hold an appropriate certificate, but have not met the above requirements for demonstrating content area competence, ***you can be considered highly qualified by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options in any combination:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject of assignment: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.
2. Meeting the course requirements for an 18 semester hour middle grades endorsement in any of Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Language Arts, and Reading: 60 points per endorsement.
3. Meeting the course requirements for a 24 semester hour middle grades endorsement in Reading: 80 points
4. Obtaining additional coursework beyond the 18 semester hour endorsement requirements in any of the core academic subjects, except reading where they must exceed 24 hours : 10 points per semester hour of credit

5. Having coursework in any of the core subject areas that is less than the requirement for an 18 hour middle grades endorsement, excluding reading: 3 points per semester credit
6. Having credits in reading totaling less than 24 hours: 3 points per semester hour
7. Work experience directly related to the subject area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
8. Participation in professional development conference session, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, related to the assignment; each event must be at least 3 hours in length: 15 points per activity*
9. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
10. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: For peer review, nine points per semester in which there are three to five observations; 11 points per semester in which there are six or more observations. For peer coaching, five points per semester in which there are three to five observations; eight points per semester in which there are six or more observations*
11. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(c)(2)(A) of 23 IAC*
12. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points for each core area taught; each course may be counted only once*
13. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(n)(2) of 23 IAC*
14. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p)(2) of the 23 IAC: 12 or 15 points*
15. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC)*
16. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the 23 IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
17. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*
18. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment*
 - *Research based book dealing with the core area of assignment: 40 points*
 - *Any other book dealing with the core area of assignment: 20 points*
 - *A core area of assignment related chapter of a book or related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
 - *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*

- *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

II. Teachers of Middle Grades (5-8) Subjects

All teachers of core academic subjects must

1. Have a bachelor's degree,
 2. Hold a certificate for the grade and subject without any waivers,
 3. Meet Illinois requirements for the assignment **and**
 4. Meet any of the following options for each core subject assigned:
- ✓ *If you hold an elementary, secondary, or special certificate and have passed the elementary/middle grades examination, you are highly qualified in all middle grades assignments.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an elementary, secondary or special K-12 certificate and if you have passed a state examination in the specific core subject you teach, you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a special certificate (or an elementary and secondary certificate obtained by splitting a special certificate) and you teach only that core academic 32 semester hour subject of special certification endorsement, you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an advanced degree in a subject area and you teach the subject, you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you have a major in a subject indicated on a transcript, or 32 semester hours of subject area content, and you teach that subject, you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a master certificate for a middle grades core academic subject, and teach that subject, you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you are a veteran teacher with an appropriate certificate and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for a core subject taught, then you are highly qualified in that subject*

Middle Grades Bilingual

If you are assigned to teach a middle grades subject and hold an elementary certificate, a secondary certificate, or a special K-12 certificate and you have either a bilingual endorsement/approval or a bilingual certificate and if you

- Have passed the elementary/ middle grades exam *or*
- Have passed a content area or subject matter knowledge exam for the core area *or*
- Have a major indicated on a transcript in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or*
- Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or*
- Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
- Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for a subject taught...*then you are highly qualified in that subject.*

Teachers of Bilingual Education Who Hold Only a Transitional Bilingual Certificate

Bilingual education teachers with only a transitional bilingual certificate (Type 29) are not highly qualified since the bilingual certificate is not a regular certificate as is required by *NCLB*.

However, holders of bilingual certificates may be considered highly qualified for a period of three years, provided they are preparing to be a teacher under a provision of *NCLB* that recognizes alternative teacher education programs.

- The teacher must be enrolled in an approved teacher education program that is preparing him/her for service at the same grade level as the assignment
- The teacher must finish the program within three years
- The teacher must be receiving high quality professional development and mentoring supplied by the district during the three year period.
- At the end of the three year period, the teacher must hold the certificate or he/she will no longer be considered highly qualified.

Middle Grades English as a Second Language/English as a New Language (ENL)

If you have a special certificate endorsed for ESL/ENL or a secondary certificate with the ESL approval/endorsement or an elementary certificate with the ESL approval/endorsement and you are assigned to teach ESL and you

- Passed the elementary/ middle grades exam *or*
- Passed the ESL/ENL content area or subject matter knowledge exam *or*
- Passed the English or English/Language Arts content test
- Have a major in ESL/ENL, or 32 hours in ESL/ENL *or*
- Have an advanced degree in ESL/ENL *or*
- Have a master certificate in ESL/ENL *or*
- Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** *then you are highly qualified.*

Note to Middle Grades Level ESL/ENL Teachers Assigned Other Content: ESL/ENL is by definition, English. If you use ESL/ENL as an instructional technique to teach other core academic content to non-English speakers, you will have to meet the requirements for ESL/ENL endorsement or approval and meet the highly qualified requirements for the content area(s) to which you are assigned as described under “Middle Grades (5-8)” requirements. For example if you teach ENL history, you will need to meet the requirements of a history teacher as well.

Middle Grades HOUSSE Option:

If you are a veteran teacher (have taught more than one year), hold an appropriate certificate, but have not met the above requirements for demonstrating content area competence, ***you can be considered highly qualified in any core subject by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options in any combination:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject of assignment: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.

2. Meeting the requirements for a middle grades endorsement of 18 semester hours in the core academic area: 60 points
3. Meeting the requirements for a 24 semester hour endorsement in reading: 80 points
4. Obtaining additional coursework exceeding the 18 hours required for a middle grades endorsement, except reading where 24 hours is required: 10 points per semester hour of credit
5. Having coursework in the subject of assignment that is less than the requirement for a middle grades endorsement: 3 points per semester credit
6. Work experience directly related to the subject area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
7. Participation in professional development conference session, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, related to the assignment; each event must be at least 3 hours in length: 15 points per activity*
8. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
9. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: For peer review, nine points per semester in which there are three to five observations; 11 points per semester in which there are six or more observations. For peer coaching, five points per semester in which there are three to five observations; eight points per semester in which there are six or more observations*
10. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(c)(2)(A) of 23 IAC*
11. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points for each core area taught; each course may be counted only once*
12. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(n)(2) of 23 IAC*
13. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p)(2) of the 23 IAC: 12 or 15 points*
14. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC)*
15. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the 23 IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
16. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*

17. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment*

- *Research based book dealing with the core area of assignment: 40 points*
- *Any other book dealing with the core area of assignment: 20 points*
- *A core area of assignment related chapter of a book or related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
- *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*
- *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

III. Secondary Level Grades 9-12

All teachers of core academic subjects must have

1. a bachelor's degree,
 2. hold a certificate for the grade and subject without any waivers,
 3. meet Illinois requirements for the assignment **and**
 4. meet any of the following options for each core subject taught:
- ✓ *If you hold a secondary certificate and if you have passed a state examination in the specific subject you teach, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a special certificate (or an elementary and secondary certificate obtained by splitting a special certificate) endorsed in the core area and you teach only that core academic subject, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an advanced degree in a subject area and you teach the area, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you have a major in a subject, or 32 semester hours, and you teach that subject, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a Master certificate in a subject for the secondary level and you are assigned to teach that subject, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold a secondary certificate and are assigned to an area where you have one of the new designations under the endorsement rules effective 7/1/04, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you hold an elementary certificate, teach a core subject at the ninth grade level and
 - You have a major in the subject indicated on a transcript (or have 32 hours of content in the subject) or
 - You have passed a content test in the subject or
 - You have a master certificate for the grade and subject or
 - You have an advanced degree in the subject, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*
 - ✓ *If you are a veteran teacher with an appropriate certificate and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for a core subject taught then you are highly qualified in that subject.*

Secondary Bilingual

If you hold an elementary certificate (for service at ninth grade only), a secondary certificate or a special certificate, and you have either a bilingual endorsement/approval or a bilingual certificate and also you

- Passed a content area or subject matter knowledge exam for the core area or
- Have a major indicated on a transcript in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught or

- Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or*
- Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
- Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for a subject taught, *then you are highly qualified in that subject.*

Teachers of Bilingual Education Who Hold Only a Transitional Bilingual Certificate

Bilingual education teachers with only a transitional bilingual certificate (Type 29) are not highly qualified since the bilingual certificate is not a regular certificate as is required by *NCLB*.

However, holders of bilingual certificates may be considered highly qualified for a period of three years, provided they are preparing to be a teacher under a provision of *NCLB* that recognizes alternative teacher education programs.

- The teacher must be enrolled in an approved teacher education program that is preparing him/her for service at the same grade level as the assignment
- The teacher must finish the program within three years
- The teacher must be receiving high quality professional development and mentoring supplied by the district during the three year period.
- At the end of the three year period, the teacher must hold the certificate or he/she will no longer be considered highly qualified.

Secondary English as a Second Language(ESL)/English as a New Language (ENL)

If you have a Special certificate endorsed or approved for ESL/ENL or if you hold a secondary certificate with the ESL approval/endorsement and if you

- Passed the ESL content area or ENL or English subject matter knowledge exam *or*
- Have a major in English ESL/ENL, or 32 hours, in English or ESL/ENL *or*
- Have an advanced degree in English or ESL/ENL *or*
- Have a master certificate in English or ESL/ENL *or*
- Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE**, *then you are highly qualified.*

Note to Secondary Level ESL/ENL Teachers Assigned Other Content: ESL/ENL is by definition, English. If you use ESL/ENL as an instructional technique to teach other core academic content to non-English speakers, you will have to meet the requirements for ESL/ENL endorsement or approval and meet the highly qualified requirements for the content area(s) to which you are assigned as described under “Secondary Level Grades 9-12” requirements. For example if you teach ENL history, you will need to meet the requirements of a history teacher as well.

Secondary HOUSSE Option

If you are a veteran teacher (have taught more than one year), hold an appropriate certificate, but have not met the above requirements for demonstrating content area competence, ***you can be considered highly qualified in a subject by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options in any combination:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.

2. Holding, or meeting all the requirements for a secondary endorsement for the subject: 80 points.
3. Obtaining additional coursework beyond the endorsement requirements in the core content area in which the teacher meets the requirements for, or holds, an endorsement: 10 points per semester hour of credit
4. Semester credits less than the hours for a secondary level endorsement: 3 points per semester hour
5. Work experience directly related to the subject area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
6. Participation in professional development conference session, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, related to the assignment; each event must be at least 3 hours in length: 15 points per activity*
7. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
8. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: For peer review, nine points per semester in which there are three to five observations; 11 points per semester in which there are six or more observations. For peer coaching, five points per semester in which there are three to five observations; eight points per semester in which there are six or more observations*
9. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(c)(2)(A) of 23 IAC*
10. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points for each core area taught; each course may be counted only once*
11. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(n)(2) of 23 IAC*
12. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p)(2) of the 23 IAC: 12 or 15 points*
13. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC)*
14. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the 23 IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
15. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*
16. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment*

- *Research based book dealing with the core area of assignment: 40 points*
- *Any other book dealing with the core area of assignment: 20 points*
- *A core area of assignment related chapter of a book or related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
- *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*
- *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

IV. Special Education Teachers: All Grade Levels

All teachers of core academic subjects must

1. Have a bachelor's degree,
2. Hold a certificate for the grade and subject without any waivers,
3. Meet Illinois requirements for the assignment **and**
4. Meet any of the options for each core subject:

All special education teachers must also hold a special education certificate or endorsement and meet the requirements for being highly qualified in any core academic subject they teach when they are the teacher of record for the subject. Special education teachers who serve on a consultative basis to teachers of core academic subjects and who are not themselves the teacher of record are not required to meet NCLB requirements for teachers of core academic subjects.

Note: New special education teachers (those with less than one year of experience) teaching two or more subjects who can demonstrate they have met the *NCLB* requirements in mathematics, language arts, or science may be given two years to demonstrate competence in other subjects taught, including through a **HOUSSE** option.

Primary Level

1. *If you hold a special pre-school to age 21 certificate endorsed for the population you serve, are the teacher of record **and** have passed the elementary/middle grades test, then you are highly qualified.*
2. *If you hold a special pre-school to age 21 certificate endorsed for the population you serve you are the teacher of record at the K-3 grade level, and have passed the early childhood certificate examination, then you are highly qualified.*
3. *If you hold an elementary certificate, and if you have passed the elementary/middle grades content test and you have an endorsement for the student population you serve, then you are highly qualified.*
4. *If you hold an early childhood certificate, have passed the early childhood content or subject matter knowledge test, are assigned grades K-3 and you have an endorsement for the student population you serve, then you are highly qualified.*
5. *If you hold a special K-12 certificate endorsed in a core area to which you are assigned and if you also have a special education endorsement for the student population you serve, then you are highly qualified in that subject*
6. *If you are a veteran teacher with a special education certificate or endorsement and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for a subject, then you are highly qualified in that subject.*

Primary Level Special Education HOUSSE:

If you are a veteran teacher (have taught more than one year), if you are the teacher of record of core academic subjects and hold a special pre-school to age 21 certificate or have a special

education endorsement, but have not met the above requirements for demonstrating content area competence, ***you can be considered highly qualified in a subject by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options in any combination:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject of assignment: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.
2. Meeting the course requirements for an 18 semester hour middle grades endorsement in any of Mathematics, Science, Art, Music, Foreign Language, Social Sciences, Language Arts, and Reading: 60 points per endorsement.
3. Meeting the course requirements for a 24 semester hour middle grades endorsement in Reading: 80 points
4. Obtaining additional coursework beyond the 18 semester hour endorsement requirements in any of the core academic subjects, except reading where they must exceed 24 hours : 10 points per semester hour of credit
5. Having coursework in any of the core subject areas that is less than the requirement for an 18 hour middle grades endorsement, excluding reading: 3 points per semester credit
6. Having credits in reading totaling less than 24 hours: 3 points per semester hour
7. Work experience directly related to the subject area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
8. Participation in professional development conference session, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, related to the assignment; each event must be at least 3 hours in length: 15 points per activity*
9. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
10. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: For peer review, nine points per semester in which there are three to five observations; 11 points per semester in which there are six or more observations. For peer coaching, five points per semester in which there are three to five observations; eight points per semester in which there are six or more observations*
11. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(c)(2)(A) of 23 IAC*
12. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points for each core area taught; each course may be counted only once*

13. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(n)(2) of 23 IAC*
14. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p)(2) of the 23 IAC: 12 or 15 points*
15. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC)*
16. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the 23 IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
17. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*
18. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment*
 - *Research based book dealing with the core area of assignment: 40 points*
 - *Any other book dealing with the core area of assignment: 20 points*
 - *A core area of assignment related chapter of a book or related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
 - *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*
 - *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

Middle Grades Special Education: In all of the following scenarios, you may meet any of the bulleted requirements for any subject.

1. *If you hold a special pre-school to age 21 certificate endorsed for the population you serve, are the teacher of record of core academic content and you*
 - *Have passed the elementary/middle grades test *or**
 - *Have a major indicated on the transcript in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or**
 - *Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or**
 - *Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or**
 - *Have passed a content area test in the subject taught *or**
 - *Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for the subject taught, *then you are highly qualified in that subject.**
2. *If you hold an elementary certificate with a special education endorsement, are the teacher of record of core academic content and you*
 - *Have passed the elementary/middle grades test *or**
 - *Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or**
 - *Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or**

- Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
 - Have passed a content area test in the subject taught *or*
 - Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for the subject taught, *then you are highly qualified in the subject.*
3. *If you hold a secondary certificate with a special education endorsement, are the teacher of record of core academic content and you*
- Have passed the elementary/middle grades test *or*
 - Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or*
 - Have passed a content test in the subject taught *or*
 - Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or*
 - Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
 - Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for the subject taught, *then you are highly qualified in the subject.*
4. *If you hold a special K-12 certificate in a core academic area and also have a special education endorsement, are the teacher of record of core academic content and you*
- Have passed the elementary/middle grades test *or*
 - Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or*
 - Have passed a content test in the subject taught *or*
 - Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or*
 - Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
 - Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for the subject taught, *then you are highly qualified in the subject*

Middle Grades Special Education Teachers Teaching Content to Students Who Are Assessed by Illinois Alternative Assessment Standards

If you hold a special education certificate, or an elementary certificate, endorsed for the population you serve, and you have content area knowledge suitable for the level of instruction being provided, you are highly qualified. (See the various grade level content knowledge expectations for detailed information)

Middle Grades Special Education HOUSSE Option:

If you are a veteran teacher (have taught more than one year), hold an appropriate Pre-School to Age-21 special education certificate or LBSI endorsement, but have not met the above requirements for demonstrating content area competence, ***you can be considered highly qualified in a core academic subject by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options in any combination:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject of assignment: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.
2. Meeting the requirements for a middle grades endorsement of 18 semester hours in the core academic area: 60 points
3. Meeting the requirements for a 24 semester hour endorsement in reading: 80 points

4. Obtaining additional coursework exceeding the 18 hours required for a middle grades endorsement, except reading where 24 hours is required: 10 points per semester hour of credit
5. Having coursework in the subject of assignment that is less than the requirement for a middle grades endorsement: 3 points per semester credit
6. Work experience directly related to the subject area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
7. Participation in professional development conference session, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, related to the assignment; each event must be at least 3 hours in length: 15 points per activity*
8. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
9. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: For peer review, nine points per semester in which there are three to five observations; 11 points per semester in which there are six or more observations. For peer coaching, five points per semester in which there are three to five observations; eight points per semester in which there are six or more observations*
10. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(c)(2)(A) of 23 IAC*
11. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points for each core area taught; each course may be counted only once*
12. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points in accordance with Section 25.875(n)(2) of 23 IAC*
13. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p)(2) of the 23 IAC: 12 or 15 points*
14. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the 23 Illinois Administrative Code (IAC)*
15. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the 23 IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
16. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*

17. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment*

- *Research based book dealing with the core area of assignment: 40 points*
- *Any other book dealing with the core area of assignment: 20 points*
- *A core area of assignment related chapter of a book or related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
- *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*
- *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

Secondary Level Special Education Teachers:

1. *If you are a special education teacher with a special pre-school to age 21 certificate endorsed for the special population you serve, you are the teacher of record for a core academic area at the secondary level and you*
 - *Have a major on your transcript, or 32 semester hours, in the content area or*
 - *Have passed a state content area or subject matter knowledge examination in the content area or*
 - *Have an advanced degree in the content area or*
 - *Have a master certificate in the content area or*
 - *Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for the subject, then you are highly qualified.*
2. *If you are a special education teacher, hold a secondary certificate with a special education endorsement, are the teacher of record of core academic content and you*
 - *Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught or*
 - *Have passed a content test in the subject taught or*
 - *Have an advanced degree in the subject taught or*
 - *Have a master certificate in the subject taught or*
 - *Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for any subject taught, then you are highly qualified.*
3. *If you are a special education teacher with an elementary certificate with a special education endorsement, are the teacher of record of core academic content at the **ninth grade level** and you*
 - *Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught or*
 - *Have an advanced degree in the subject taught or*
 - *Have a master certificate in the subject taught or*
 - *Have passed a content area test in the subject taught or*
 - *Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for any subject taught, then you are highly qualified.*

4. If you are a special education teacher with a special K-12 certificate in a core academic area and if you also have a special education endorsement for the student population you serve and you
- Have a major in the subject taught, or 32 hours in the subject taught *or*
 - Have an advanced degree in the subject taught *or*
 - Have a master certificate in the subject taught *or*
 - Have passed a content area test in the subject taught *or*
 - Are a veteran teacher and can demonstrate compliance with **HOUSSE** for any subject taught, *then you are highly qualified.*

Secondary Special Education Teachers Teaching Content to Students Who Are Assessed by Illinois Alternative Assessment Standards:

If you hold a special education certificate, or a secondary certificate, endorsed for the population you serve, and you have content area knowledge suitable for the level of instruction being provided, you are highly qualified. (See the various grade level expectations for detailed information)

Secondary Special Education HOUSSE Option:

If you are a veteran teacher (those with at least one year of service) who holds a special education endorsement but you do not meet the above requirements, ***you can be considered highly qualified in a core academic subject by demonstrating you have 100 points from the following additional options:***

1. Teaching experience in the core academic subject: 10 points per year, 50 points maximum.
2. Holding, or meeting all the requirements for a secondary endorsement of 24 semester hours for the subject: 80 points.
3. Obtaining additional coursework beyond the endorsement requirements in the core content area in which the teacher meets the requirements for, or holds, an endorsement: 10 points per semester hour of credit
4. Semester credits less than the 24 hours for a secondary level endorsement: 3 points per semester hour
5. Participation in conference sessions, workshops, institutes, seminars, symposia or other similar training events, each at least three hours in length and directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 15 points per activity
6. Work experience directly related to the area of teaching: 10 points per year of experience, 50 points maximum*
7. Serving as a supervising teacher of a student teacher in the core academic area of your assignment: 10 points per student teacher assignment*
8. Service as a peer reviewer or coach in the core academic area of assignment: 9 or 11 points for a reviewer, 5 or 8 for coaching*

9. Mentoring a new teacher in the core academic subject of your assignment in an approved mentoring program: 9 or 11 points*
10. Teaching a college course in the core academic area of assignment: 20 points, each course may be counted only once*
11. Action research and inquiry projects in the core area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*
12. Approved travel related to the area of teaching assignment and meeting the requirements of Section 25.875(p) (2) of the IAC: 12 or 15 points*
13. Participation in a study group directly related to the area of teaching assignment: 6 or 8 points, in accordance with Section 25.875(q) of the IAC*
14. Participation in an internship directly related to the area of teaching assignment that meets the requirements of Section 25.875(s) of the IAC: points are earned in relation to contact hours as prescribed in Section 25.875(s) (2)*
15. Curriculum development or assessment activities related to the core academic area of assignment: 8 or 11 points*
16. Publishing Related to the Core Academic Assignment:*
 - *Research based book dealing with the content area: 40 points*
 - *Any other book dealing with the content area: 20 points*
 - *A content related chapter of a book or content related article in a refereed journal: 15 points*
 - *Content related column in a statewide publication: 8 points*
 - *Content related column in a local publication: 5 points*

*Taken from the continuing professional development requirements for renewal of standard & master teaching certificates.

Special Education Teachers on Short-Term Emergency Certificate in Special Education.

Teachers working on Short-Term Emergency Certificates in Special Education who are the teacher of record in a core content area may be considered highly qualified only if they have a major, passed a content test, hold an advanced certificate or have an advanced degree in any core academic subject taught and

- Hold an elementary, secondary, special or early childhood certificate and are serving in an assignment in a content area where they meet the relevant highly qualified requirements and
- Are enrolled in an approved program that will make them eligible for certification in LBSI within three years and
- Are receiving high quality professional development in special education and
- Are being provided high quality mentoring
- Meet the full LBSI certificate requirements in three years or they will no longer be considered highly qualified.

Special Education Teachers Employed on LBSI Approval

Special education teachers with a base certificate and an approval for Learning Behavior Specialist I, whether limited or without limitations, are not highly qualified per IDEA because they have not passed a special education examination and they do not hold a special education certificate. However, these individuals may be considered highly qualified for a three year period, provided they are enrolled in an approved program that will qualify them for the special pre-school to age 21 certificate in special education within three years and

- Hold an elementary, secondary, special or early childhood certificate and are serving in an assignment in a content area where they meet the relevant highly qualified requirements and
- Are enrolled in an approved program that will make them eligible for certification in LBSI within three years and
- Are receiving high quality professional development in special education and
- Are being provided high quality mentoring and
- Obtain the special pre-school to age 21 certificate in special education within three years or they will no longer be considered highly qualified.

V. Other

Teachers in Charter Schools

A teacher who is employed in a charter school and who has primary responsibility for teaching in any of the core academic subjects will be considered highly qualified if he or she either:

- ✓ Holds a certificate applicable to the assignment and meets the other criteria applicable to the assignment, as outlined elsewhere in this document *or*
- ✓ Holds a bachelor's degree, has passed the relevant content-area test in each core subject area of teaching responsibility, and meets the other requirements of Section 27A-10 (c) of the School Code [105 ILCS 5/27A-10(c)].

Teachers Who Hold Alternative Certificates

A teacher who holds an alternative certificate that was attained through completion of an approved Illinois program and who has primary responsibility for teaching content in the core academic subject for which the certificate was issued will be considered highly qualified because he or she has passed the applicable content-area test. For an assignment in any additional core subject area (in the secondary or middle grades), a teacher with an alternative secondary certificate will be considered highly qualified if he or she has either passed the relevant content-area test or has completed a major or coursework equivalent to a major in that subject.

Teachers Who Hold Resident Teacher Certificates

A teacher who holds a resident teacher certificate and who has primary responsibility for teaching content in any of the core academic subjects will be considered highly qualified if he or she has passed the relevant content-area test for each core subject area of teaching assignment, which may include the Elementary/Middle Grades test if applicable to the grade level of the assignment, or has completed a major or coursework equivalent to a major in that area.

Teachers Who Hold Visiting International Teacher Certificates

A teacher who holds a visiting international teacher certificate will be considered highly qualified, provided that the certificate held is valid for the grade level or levels of his or her teaching assignment.

Vocational Education Teachers

A teacher in a vocational education program who has primary responsibility for teaching content for which students receive credit in a core academic subject (e.g., a teacher of an agricultural education course whose students receive credit in science) will be considered highly qualified if he or she holds a secondary (Type 09) certificate and meets the NCLB requirements for teaching the core area as defined under secondary teachers.

Teachers in Alternative Schools

Teachers in alternative schools are expected to meet the same requirements for content knowledge and certification as expected for a teacher at that grade level and subject in a regular school.