

# Valid Credentials: General Rules

## Introduction

This document is designed to assist districts in implementing the requirements and in ensuring that PreK-12 educators are assigned to classes they are validly credentialed to teach. It identifies the credentials required for teaching specific courses. Teachers are to hold one of the credentials identified in this document for each course they teach.

## Elementary Credentials

Courses in the elementary grade range, other than PE, do not appear in this document, because a general rule for elementary credentials applies to all such courses. The general rule for elementary credentials, including Kindergarten-Primary (KP), Kindergarten-Elementary (KE), Elementary (EL), Early Childhood (EC), Primary (PF), and endorsements extending the grade range of EC credentials, allows the teachers who hold these credentials to teach any course within the relevant grade range. An exception to this rule is for those initially hired on or after July 1, 2013, to teach physical education. These teachers must be licensed in PE and are included in this document.

## Community School Courses

Courses that are taught at a community school, with the exception of special education courses, can be taught by an educator who holds any valid teaching credential including substitute teaching licenses.

## Special Education

For courses with student populations SE or SP, any teacher holding an education of the handicapped certificate (EH) or an intervention specialist license (PI, IL or ES) can teach students—at the grade levels for which the teacher is certificated or licensed—with any disability.\*

\*Exceptions:

1. Any SE or SP course that is comprised of all deaf or hard of hearing students must be taught by someone certificated or licensed to teach deaf or hard of hearing students. This includes the following:
  - EH 196010, 196015, 196070 (grades K-12)
  - IL 196116 (grades P-12)
2. Any SE or SP course that is comprised of all visually impaired students must be taught by someone certificated or licensed to teach visually impaired students. This includes the following:
  - EH 196110 (grades K-12)
  - IL 196109 (grades P-12)