



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement for Future Educators and Current Educators Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Future Indiana Educators

Number	Question	Answer
1.	Why is there a new early literacy endorsement requirement for <u>future</u> educators who are applying for their first PK-6 or special education license?	Educators are called to the profession because of a desire to change lives, and ultimately, help every student to see – and achieve – their full potential. To help make this possible, a challenge that we must overcome together is ensuring all of our students are able to read. Illiteracy is one of the most solvable issues of our time, yet today in Indiana, one in five third grade students cannot read. While this literacy crisis is not new, it is certainly one that we can solve together. The training required through the early literacy endorsement seeks to provide educators with tools focused on evidence-based instruction rooted in science of reading, ensuring more students across the state gain essential literacy skills necessary for future success.
2.	Which <u>future</u> educators are required to earn Indiana's Early Literacy Endorsement?	<u>Indiana Code (IC) 20-28-5-19.7</u> states that future Indiana educators who apply for their <u>first</u> professional educator license in one or more of the content areas and grade spans noted below are required to obtain the early literacy endorsement: • Early Childhood (Pre-K-3); • Early Childhood Special Education Pre-K-3; • Elementary Education/Generalist 1-6, K-6; • Elementary/Primary (K-3); • Elementary/Intermediate (4-6); and • Special Education K-6, 1-6, K-12, or Pre-K-12 This is effective for future educators applying for initial licensure beginning July 1, 2025. If you are unsure if the requirement applies to you, please reach out to INLitCenter@doe.in.gov.
3.	When are <u>future</u> educators required to earn the early literacy endorsement?	Pursuant to state law passed in 2023, the early literacy endorsement becomes a requirement for future educators applying for initial licensure beginning July 1, 2025.



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4.	How will educator preparation programs (EPPs) support <u>future</u> Indiana educators in earning the early literacy endorsement?	House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1558 (2023) stated that by July 1, 2024, Indiana educator preparation programs (EPPs) educating future early childhood, elementary, and special education teacher candidates must include content within their curriculum that is aligned to science of reading. A passing score of 159 on the Teaching Reading: Elementary (5205) Praxis exam is also required for a future educator to earn the endorsement. Indiana EPPs are responsible for preparing preservice educators and ensuring their program completers have met all program and licensure requirements, including testing.
5.	What if I am a <u>future</u> educator currently enrolled in an educator preparation program and graduate <i>before June 30, 2025</i>?	Future educators who graduate and apply for their first license <i>before</i> June 30, 2025, will not be subject to the new law for their initial license. Upon future renewal (on or after July 1, 2027), please refer to the requirements and details, beginning on page three, for current educators to add the early literacy endorsement.
6.	What if, as a <u>future</u> educator, I cannot meet the requirements to earn the early literacy endorsement?	Future educators who are unable to meet minimum licensing requirements are encouraged to work with IDOE's Office of Educator Licensing to determine steps forward. Also, if you are unsure if the requirement applies to you, please reach out to your licensing advisor. In addition to participating in aligned professional development, educators are encouraged to review the ETS study plan and study companion to prepare for the exam.

Current Indiana Educators

Number	Question	Answer
7.	Why is there a new early literacy endorsement requirement for <u>current</u> educators who already hold a PK-6 or special education license?	Educators are called to the profession because of a desire to change lives, and ultimately, help every student to see – and achieve – their full potential. To help make this possible, a challenge that we must overcome together is ensuring all of our students are able to read. Illiteracy is one of the most solvable issues of our time, yet today in Indiana, one in five third grade students cannot read. While this literacy crisis is not new, it is certainly one that we can solve together. The training required through the early literacy endorsement seeks to



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		provide educators with tools focused on evidence-based instruction rooted in science of reading, ensuring more students across the state gain essential literacy skills necessary for future success.
8.	Which <u>current</u> educators are required to add the new early literacy endorsement?	Per statute, the early literacy endorsement requirements apply to educators who teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students and are renewing one of the following license types on or after July 1, 2027: • Early Childhood (Pre-K-3); • Early Childhood Special Education Pre-K-3; • Elementary Education/Generalist 1-6, K-6; • Elementary/Primary (K-3); • Elementary/Intermediate (4-6); and • Special Education K-6, 1-6, K-12, or Pre-K-12 If you are unsure if the requirement applies to you, please reach out to INLitCenter@doe.in.gov.
9.	Will there be flexibility for <u>current</u> educators who hold a PK-6 or special education license but do not teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students?	Yes. While earning the early literacy endorsement is strongly encouraged, only current educators who teach in a content area that involves literacy instruction for PK-5 students will be required to earn the early literacy endorsement. Therefore, an educator who holds a PK-6 parent license but teaches in a content area that does <i>NOT</i> involve literacy instruction for PK-5 students will <i>NOT</i> be required to earn the early literacy endorsement. For example, an educator who currently teaches high school math (or another content area that is not literacy) and does not plan to teach PK-5 literacy in the future, will not be required to add the early literacy endorsement. In order to ensure state law is followed, a written assurance form will be shared prior to July 1, 2027, when the early literacy endorsement requirement begins. The form will require a signature by district and school administrators confirming that the teacher is not currently teaching PK-5 literacy and does not plan to do so in the future. This will be completed and submitted by the teacher during each license renewal process via LVIS360. If you have specific questions about your educator license related to this requirement, please reach out to INLitCenter@doe.in.gov.



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10.	When are <u>current</u> educators required to add the early literacy endorsement?	<u>Indiana Code (IC) 20-28-5-19.7</u> states that <u>current</u> educators renewing their license on or after July 1, 2027, are required to earn Indiana's new early literacy endorsement. Depending on their license expiration date, some educators will have more time to complete the requirements. For example, a <u>current</u> educator who holds a PK-6 or special education parent license that does not expire until 2029 would have until 2029 (five years from the law's passage) to earn the endorsement.
11.	How will <u>current</u> Indiana educators add the early literacy endorsement?	In order to add the early literacy endorsement, <u>current</u> educators must complete 80 hours of science of reading professional development approved by IDOE and pass Praxis 5205 (Teaching Reading: Elementary). Educators will complete this form to verify details of their training and upload their completion certificates. Once the professional development has been approved, IDOE will issue a confirmation letter that will be used by the educator to support the early literacy endorsement application in LVIS. More information for current educators can be found here .
12.	What criteria are used to determine whether a specific training completed by a <u>current</u> educator meets the requirements of the 80 hours of professional development?	<u>Indiana Code (IC) 20-28-5-19.7</u> states, <u>current</u> educators must complete 80 hours of science of reading professional development approved by IDOE in order to earn the early literacy endorsement. Numerous professional development opportunities have already been approved to fulfill the 80 hour requirement, and additional professional development opportunities are being reviewed on a rolling basis. The specific requirements and approved programs are outlined here . If you have questions about whether a specific training you have completed or plan to complete meets the professional development requirements, please reach out to INLitCenter@doe.in.gov .
13.	Is there a training provider that meets all the requirements and is offered at no cost for <u>current</u> educators to meet the professional development requirement?	Yes. Educators who have an active Indiana professional educator license and a current teaching assignment in a content area that involves literacy PK-5, may opt-in to complete the Keys to Literacy training at no cost. Information on current training can be found here .
14.	What if a <u>current</u> educator is unable to pass the Praxis exam?	There is existing flexibility within the law to develop a process for educators who need the endorsement and need additional time and support to meet the requirements for the early literacy endorsement.



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		The licensing department will provide a temporary credential after July 1, 2027. In addition to participating in aligned professional development, educators are encouraged to review the ETS study plan and study companion to prepare for the exam.
15.	Once I earn the early literacy endorsement, do I have to earn it again in future years?	No. This is only required once.
16.	Once a <u>current</u> educator completes the 80 hours of professional development to add the early literacy endorsement, do they still need to complete additional PGP points to renew their license?	A total of 90 Professional Growth Plan points (hours) are required each time an educator renews their license; the addition of the early literacy endorsement will fully meet this requirement for the educator's next five- or 10-year license renewal. This is calculated from 80 hours of PD, plus 10 additional PGPs for successfully passing the Praxis exam. Educators may use any training included on this list to fulfill the 80-hour requirement for the early literacy endorsement, regardless of when the training was completed. Additional PD opportunities are being reviewed on a rolling basis.
17.	Is the early literacy endorsement the same as the reading endorsement and/or reading specialist addition?	No. The early literacy endorsement authorized in Indiana Code (IC) 20-28-5-19.7 is different from previous reading or reading specialist licensure areas. However, educators who completed professional development through the process of adding those endorsements may have already met some or all of the professional development requirements of the early literacy endorsement. These requirements are outlined here. If you have questions about whether a specific training you have completed or plan to complete partially or fully meets the professional development requirements, please reach out to INLitCenter@doe.in.gov.
18.	Is there a required pay differential for <u>current</u> educators who earn the early literacy endorsement?	Indiana Code IC 20-28-9-1.5(e) provides for pay differentiation for teachers who possess a required early literacy endorsement. Specific terms of pay differentiation are subject to collective bargaining, and individual questions, like all matters concerning teacher salary, wages, or fringe benefits, should be directed to the Indiana Education Employment Relations Board by email at Questions@ieerb.in.gov.



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19.	When adding the endorsement without renewing, does the expiration change on my teaching license?	If an educator is adding the endorsement to an existing teaching license and not renewing their license to extend the expiration date, the renewal date will not change and the license with the newly added endorsement will carry the original expiration date.
20.	Is a literacy coach required to obtain the Early Literacy Endorsement?	IC 20-20-49-3.2 defines a literacy coach as an individual whose primary responsibility is to provide literacy training and support to administrators and teachers. IC 20-32-8.5, requires schools below seventy percent (70%) on IREAD to employ an instructional coach with the Early Literacy Endorsement after June 30, 2025. <u>After July 1, 2027</u>, all literacy coaches must earn the Early Literacy Endorsement.

This FAQ will continue to be updated as questions are received, and these questions and answers will be flagged as new. Contact the [Indiana Literacy Center](#) with any questions.