



The Future of Illinois Middle Grade Endorsements

What's New in February of 2018?

Middle Grades Summary

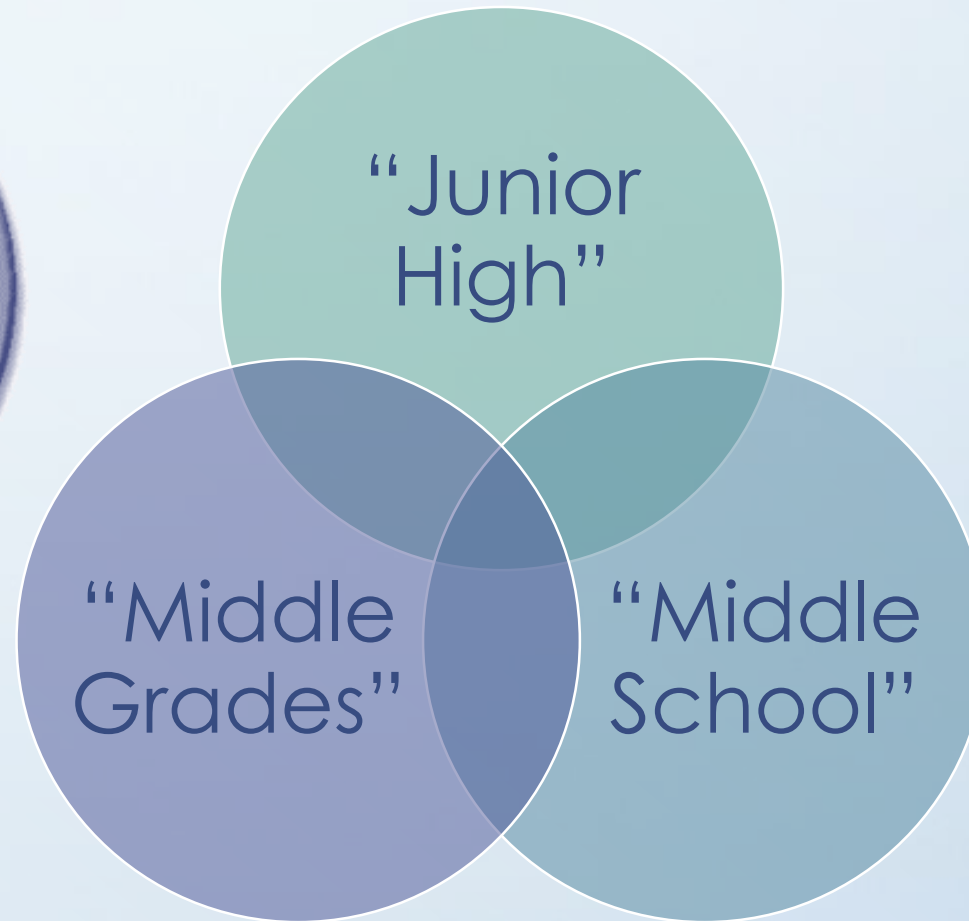
- Grade Range will be Grades 5-8
- May be self-contained at Grades 5 or 6
- Requires Departmentalization at grades 7 and 8
- New requirements for subsequent endorsements

Why the Change?

New Programs are Designed To:

- Work with Illinois Professional Teaching Standards
- Include Preparation in middle grades pedagogy throughout all content areas including:
 - Specific psychological and social/emotional needs
 - differentiation
 - diversity
 - cultural awareness
 - literacy and numeracy (including statistics)

What's the Difference?



Not Just Another Name

Junior High



Issued Until July 01, 1997



18 hours in the
content area

Middle School



Issued July 01, 1997 –
January 31, 2018



18 hours in the
content area



Adolescent Psychology and
Middle School Curriculum

Middle Grades



Issued After February 01,
2018



21 hours in the
content area



Content specific methods
for middle school



Appropriate test(s)

So What Does This Mean for Current Educators?

- Educators are “Once Qualified, Always Qualified”
 - You will not lose any credentials when the change takes place
 - You will still be licensed to work in grades 5-8 if you have met any of the previous requirements at the time they were in place
 - You do not need to do anything special to maintain your endorsements outside of your regular renewal
 - Requirements for additional or subsequent endorsements will change!

First Middle School Endorsement Until January 31, 2018

KEEP IN MIND:

- Until January 31, 2018, educators can generally add their first middle school endorsement to a valid license by completing:
 - 18 semester hours in a content area
 - 6 semester hours of middle school professional education coursework
 - *Note there are some exceptions*

First Middle School Endorsement Until January 31, 2018

HOW DO I GET MINE??

- Until January 31, 2018, educators may apply for the middle school endorsement in their ELIS account and undergo transcript evaluation through ISBE
 - *Educators will have two full fiscal years (plus the remainder of the year) to satisfy any deficiencies that may be identified during transcript evaluation.*

First Middle Grades Endorsement On or After February 1, 2018



TIME'S UP!

- Each educator seeking their first middle grades endorsement must complete a full or focused program at an Illinois institution of higher education that offers an approved middle grades preparation program.
- For the purposes of this presentation, a “First” Middle Grades endorsement refers to an endorsement added by an educator who has not held a k-12, middle school or middle grades endorsement.
- Educators who are endorsed for “Junior High” will also be required to complete a full approved program

Subsequent Endorsements On or After February 1, 2018

- Each educator seeking to add a subsequent middle grades endorsement may do so by completing all of the following:
 - 21 semester hours in a content area,
 - 3 semester hours in a content-specific middle grades methods course and
 - the appropriate content area test(s).
- For purposes of this presentation, a “subsequent” endorsement refers to an additional endorsement added by an educator who already holds a “middle school,” “middle grades,” or k-12 content endorsement.

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 - 3 semester hours in a content-specific middle grades methods course and
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Scenarios

Questions



Information for this presentation is based on the following publication prepared by the Illinois State Board of Education.

The Future of Illinois Middle Grades:

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/future-of-illinois-middle-grades.pdf>

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