

Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education  
Office of the Dean

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## Memorandum

DATE: February 4, 2025

FROM: Dr. Alberto López   
Associate Dean and Licensure Officer

TO: Faculty, Program Advisors, and Candidates in Educator Programs

RE: **Initial Teacher Preparation Content Area Exam Policy**

Cc: Dr. Thomas Phillion, Dean  
Department Chairs  
Ms. Cate Wycoff, Director of the CEST Office

To better prepare teacher candidates in initial programs for their required ILTS Content Tests, the Goodwin College of Education will require that all candidates attempt their required ILTS Content Test at least once prior to the start of their student teaching experience. To be clear, candidates do not need to pass their ILTS Content Test to begin their student teaching experiences. *However, all candidates must have one attempt on file with the Goodwin College of Education by August 1 for fall student teachers and December 1 for spring student teachers.*

The above policy is effective immediately and will apply to all candidates who are planning to student teach in Fall 2025 and in each semester thereafter. Petitions for extensions or exceptions should be directed to the GCOE Associate Dean following the Miscellaneous Petition and Appeal Policy in the Academic Catalog.

To minimize the burden of this new policy, NEIU teacher candidates will be reimbursed by the Goodwin College of Education for the cost of their first ILTS Content Test registration. In all cases, the amount of the reimbursement will be \$122. Only one reimbursement will be given to each teacher candidate, and the reimbursement will not be given to any teacher candidate who is repeating student teaching. To be compensated for their first attempt, teacher candidates must select NEIU as their reporting institution when they register for their exams. NEIU's receipt of teacher candidates' official exam scores will automatically begin the compensation process.

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Please visit the [ILTS website](#) to obtain more information about ILTS Content Tests and please contact your academic advisor if you have questions about the support that the Goodwin College of Education provides for content test preparation. More information about ILTS Content Test support is available on the GCOE website at [this link here](#).

As a matter of Illinois state law, ILTS Content Tests must be passed in order to earn a Professional Educator License. They do not need to be passed prior to student teaching. The faculty and administration of the Goodwin College of Education encourage all teacher candidates to try to pass their required ILTS Content Tests by the end of the semester in which they plan to complete their programs *when grades are due*. This date is indicated on the [University Calendar](#). Ideally, passing scores will be reflected in [ELIS](#) by this date. Candidates who do not pass their ILTS Content Tests by this date should contact their advisors to receive further directions.