

English Language Arts Endorsement FAQs

What is a competency-based endorsement?

Utah secondary endorsements are competency-based meaning that an educator can use various pieces of evidence to demonstrate competency. The endorsement application lists the types of evidence accepted which include coursework, Praxis 5038 or 5039, microcredential completion, degrees earned, or certain types of professional experiences.

Educators can mix-and-match the types of evidence they submit for the competency-based endorsement. For example, an educator may complete the “Adolescent Literacy Development” competency area using coursework, and then, complete the “Creating Texts” and “Teaching Text Creation” competency areas through participation in a National Writing Project or through microcredentials.

What is the difference between an associate vs. a professional-level ELA endorsement?

An associate level endorsement means that an educator has met a minimum level of requirements towards the ELA endorsement allowing them to teach in that content area while they complete all of the endorsement requirements for a professional endorsement.

Once an associate level ELA endorsement is awarded, an educator is given a three-year time frame to complete all of the requirements for a professional-level ELA endorsement.

What requirements must be met to earn an associate-level ELA endorsement?

An educator must have: 1) earned a bachelor’s or higher degree in English (composition or literature-focused) or Mass Communication OR 2) completed 3 of the 9 requirement areas, OR 3) earned a passing score of 167 or higher on Praxis

5038 or a score of 162 on Praxis 5039. A passing score on Praxis 5038 or 5039 also provides evidence for competency areas 2, 4, 6, and 8.

Do I have to take a Praxis exam to earn the endorsement?

No, a Praxis exam is no longer required. However, earning a passing score of 167 or higher on Praxis 5038 or a score of 162 on Praxis 5039 does fulfill requirement areas 2, 4, 6, and 8 and provide an educator with an associate-level endorsement.

Can an educator earn the associate level ELA endorsement using the retiring application and then complete the professional level endorsement using the new competency-based requirements?

Yes. After receiving the associate level endorsement, they would still need to complete all of the professional level endorsement requirements in three years.

Does the new competency-based ELA endorsement require a certain number of credit hours?

No. The requirement areas listed on the application are *competencies* and not course names. One course can meet multiple competencies. For example, if a university has had their coursework approved by USBE, the Young Adult Literature course that they offer (a course requirement for competency area #2 on the ELA endorsement) may also teach students about adolescent literacy development (competency area #1) and how to critically select and teach texts (competency area #4). This Young Adult Literature course would then meet each of these 3 competencies. The educator would list this course under each of the 3 competency areas on the application.

Additionally, there is no course-hour minimum requirement for the new competency-based endorsement.

Where can an educator take courses to meet the ELA endorsement requirements?

View a [full list of university courses](#) that have been approved to meet the endorsement requirements.

What if an educator has taken courses that have not been USBE approved for the new ELA endorsement?

Please contact Dr. Naomi Watkins: naomi.watkins@schools.utah.gov if you have questions about specific coursework that are not answered here.

What if an educator has experience teaching secondary English language arts or secondary reading? Does that teaching experience equate to an endorsement?

No. Time spent teaching in a classroom does not necessarily equate to competency. Microcredentials are suggested for experienced educators to demonstrate their competency.

An educator has an elementary teaching license and now wants to teach middle school ELA. Do they need an ELA endorsement?

Yes. An elementary teaching license allows educators to teach grades K-8. Educators need an ELA endorsement to teach ELA in the middle school setting (grades 6-8). However, if 6th grade ELA is housed in an elementary school, an educator does not need the ELA endorsement for this teaching assignment.

An educator wants to teach journalism or speech/debate. Which endorsement should they earn?

USBE no longer offers specific endorsements to educators for journalism or speech/debate.

If educators are interested in teaching journalism and/or other English elective courses, they should earn the ELA endorsement.

If educators are interested in teaching speech or debate, they can do so with the following endorsements: English Language Arts (ELA), History, Political Science, or Social Studies Composite.

What are microcredentials? How do I earn them?

Microcredentials are one type of evidence that educators can submit to show competency for some of the requirement areas on the new ELA endorsement and Secondary Literacy Interventionist endorsement.

- [General information about microcredentials](#)

Earning microcredentials assumes that an educator already has the knowledge and skills to show mastery of the endorsement competency areas. Microcredentials require that educators submit evidence in the form of such items as lesson plans, unit plans, student data, videos of teaching, reflections, etc.

Microcredentials do not teach content and may not be the best option for all educators.

Which microcredentials do I need to complete for the new ELA endorsement?

The list of required microcredentials are on the [SPEC sheet](#).

You can also search in MIDAS for a microcredential by its name.

Will a master's degree in English meet all of the requirement areas for an ELA endorsement?

No. While a master's degree may meet some of the requirements for the ELA endorsement, it does not equate to a professional level endorsement.