



Indiana Department of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner, Secretary of Education

To: School and Corporation Administrators

From: Office of Educator Licensing
Office of Teaching and Learning

Date: May 13, 2022

Subject: Middle School licenses and ninth grade-level Science courses

Recently, questions have arisen regarding what ninth grade-level science courses can be taught by a teacher holding a Middle School Science license for grades 5-9, whether at the middle school level for high school credit or at the ninth grade in a freshman campus or high school.

Variations in junior high/middle school license grade coverage and terminology found under the multiple versions of licensing rules have created inconsistent interpretation and implementation. To clarify questions about what licensure is appropriate for ninth grade-level science courses, the Office of Educator Licensing and the Office of Teaching and Learning are providing this guidance.

Under most versions of the licensing rules, Science with junior high/middle school grade coverage is displayed on the face of a license as a K-9 or 1-9 endorsement, or as a content area for grades 5-9. Any license that covers the junior high/middle school grades including grade 9 is considered appropriate for teaching these ninth grade-level general diploma science courses:

3030 Life Science and 3102 Physical Science.

A junior high/middle school science license including grade 9 is not appropriate for teaching any Core 40 science courses or science courses that are traditionally offered above grade 9 (e.g., Biology, Integrated Chemistry/Physics, AP Biology, Physical Science, Physics, Earth Space Science, etc.); a secondary license in the appropriate science discipline for grades 7-12, 5-12, or 9-12 is required for Core 40 science offerings, as well as grade 10 and above science offerings.

To promote consistency of implementation and to simplify staffing, science licenses issued under the Rules 2002 licensing rules with the “junior high/middle school setting” will be interpreted to include grade 9 and will be considered appropriate for teaching the ninth grade-level science courses noted above.

The Office of Educator Licensing is updating the Assignment Code to reflect the inclusion of middle school licenses as options for teaching the science courses noted above.

Please contact the Office Educator Licensing at 317-232-9010 with any questions.