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Illinois Department of
Financial and Professional Regulation

Office of the Secretary

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For Immediate Release:
September 30, 2026

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IDFPR Expands Language Access for Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics and Nail Technology Licensing Exams

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) announced today that beginning October 1, 2026, select licensing examinations for barber, cosmetology, esthetics and nail technology professions will be offered in five languages: English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

“Everyone who has the skills, knowledge and determination to pursue a career should have a fair opportunity to do so, and language should not be an unnecessary barrier to entering the workforce,” said **IDFPR Secretary Mario Treto, Jr.** “Expanding language access for these licensing examinations is another way IDFPR is working to make the licensing process more inclusive and accessible, while opening the door to new opportunities for individuals across Illinois.”

The expanded language options will apply to the following examinations:

- Cosmetology Theory
- Nail Technology Theory
- Barber Theory
- Instructor Theory
- Esthetician Theory

“This expansion is about making the licensing process more accessible, while still maintaining consistent standards for every professional who enters these important fields,” said **Camile Lindsay, Director of Professional Regulation at IDFPR.**

The addition of these language options expands access to Illinois’ professional licensing process and provides more candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and qualifications in a language they are most comfortable using.

“I commend IDFPR for expanding language access and making the professional licensing process more accessible to Illinoisans,” said state **Rep. Theresa Mah (D-Chicago).** “These new examination options will help remove barriers and open the door to professional opportunities for individuals across our state.”

The barbering, cosmetology, esthetics, and nail technology professions provide career opportunities for thousands of Illinois residents in communities throughout the state. By expanding the languages available for licensing examinations, IDFPR is helping ensure that qualified candidates have greater access to the pathway to professional licensure.

The new language options will be available beginning **October 1, 2026**. Information about examination fees and licensing requirements for these professions is available [online](#).

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