



**94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2005 and 2006**  
**HB0343**

Introduced 1/21/2005, by Rep. Monique D. Davis

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21-1a

from Ch. 122, par. 21-1a

Amends the Teacher Certification Article of the School Code. Removes a provision that prohibits a student from enrolling in a teacher preparation program until he or she has passed the basic skills test. Removes a provision prohibiting a preservice education teacher from student teaching until he or she has passed the subject matter test in the discipline in which he or she will student teach.

LRB094 06673 NHT 36767 b

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21-1a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-1a) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-1a)

7 Sec. 21-1a. Tests required for certification ~~and teacher~~  
8 ~~preparation.~~

9 (a) After July 1, 1988, in addition to all other  
10 requirements, early childhood, elementary, special, high  
11 school, school service personnel, or, except as provided in  
12 Section 34-6, administrative certificates shall be issued to  
13 persons who have satisfactorily passed a test of basic skills  
14 and subject matter knowledge. A person who holds a valid and  
15 comparable out-of-state certificate, however, is not required  
16 to take a test of basic skills and is not required to take a  
17 test of subject matter knowledge, provided that the person has  
18 successfully passed a test of subject matter knowledge in  
19 another state or territory of the United States that is  
20 directly related in content to the specific subject area of  
21 certification. The tests of basic skills and subject matter  
22 knowledge shall be the tests which from time to time are  
23 designated by the State Board of Education in consultation with  
24 the State Teacher Certification Board and may be tests prepared  
25 by an educational testing organization or tests designed by the  
26 State Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
27 Certification Board. The areas to be covered by the test of  
28 basic skills shall include the basic skills of reading,  
29 writing, grammar and mathematics. The test of subject matter  
30 knowledge shall assess content knowledge in the specific  
31 subject field. The tests shall be designed to be racially  
32 neutral to assure that no person in taking the tests is thereby

1 discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national  
2 origin or other factors unrelated to the person's ability to  
3 perform as a certificated employee. The score required to pass  
4 the tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge shall be  
5 fixed by the State Board of Education in consultation with the  
6 State Teacher Certification Board. The tests shall be held not  
7 fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be  
8 designated by the State Board of Education in consultation with  
9 the State Teacher Certification Board.

10 (b) Except as provided in Section 34-6, the provisions of  
11 subsection (a) of this Section shall apply equally in any  
12 school district subject to Article 34, provided that the State  
13 Board of Education shall determine which certificates issued  
14 under Sections 34-8.1 and 34-83 prior to July 1, 1988 are  
15 comparable to any early childhood certificate, elementary  
16 school certificate, special certificate, high school  
17 certificate, school service personnel certificate or  
18 administrative certificate issued under this Article as of July  
19 1, 1988.

20 (c) A person who holds an early childhood, elementary,  
21 special, high school or school service personnel certificate  
22 issued under this Article on or at any time before July 1,  
23 1988, including a person who has been issued any such  
24 certificate pursuant to Section 21-11.1 or in exchange for a  
25 comparable certificate theretofore issued under Section 34-8.1  
26 or Section 34-83, shall not be required to take or pass the  
27 tests in order to thereafter have such certificate renewed.

28 (d) The State Board of Education in consultation with the  
29 State Teacher Certification Board shall conduct a pilot  
30 administration of the tests by administering the test to  
31 students completing teacher education programs in the 1986-87  
32 school year for the purpose of determining the effect and  
33 impact of testing candidates for certification.

34 ~~Beginning with the 2002-2003 academic year, a student may~~  
35 ~~not enroll in a teacher preparation program at a recognized~~  
36 ~~teacher training institution until he or she has passed the~~

1 ~~basic skills test.~~

2 ~~Beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year, a preservice~~  
3 ~~education teacher may not student teach until he or she has~~  
4 ~~passed the subject matter test in the discipline in which he or~~  
5 ~~she will student teach.~~

6 (e) The rules and regulations developed to implement the  
7 required test of basic skills and subject matter knowledge  
8 shall include the requirements of subsections (a), (b), and (c)  
9 and shall include specific regulations to govern test  
10 selection; test validation and determination of a passing  
11 score; administration of the tests; frequency of  
12 administration; applicant fees; frequency of applicants'  
13 taking the tests; the years for which a score is valid; and,  
14 waiving certain additional tests for additional certificates  
15 to individuals who have satisfactorily passed the test of basic  
16 skills and subject matter knowledge as required in subsection  
17 (a). The State Board of Education shall provide, by rule,  
18 specific policies that assure uniformity in the difficulty  
19 level of each form of the basic skills test and each subject  
20 matter knowledge test from test-to-test and year-to-year. The  
21 State Board of Education shall also set a passing score for the  
22 tests.

23 (f) The State Teacher Certification Board may issue a  
24 nonrenewable temporary certificate between July 1, 1988 and  
25 August 31, 1988 to individuals who have taken the tests of  
26 basic skills and subject matter knowledge prescribed by this  
27 Section but have not received such test scores by August 31,  
28 1988. Such temporary certificates shall expire on December 31,  
29 1988.

30 (g) Beginning February 15, 2000, the State Board of  
31 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
32 Certification Board, shall implement and administer a new  
33 system of certification for teachers in the State of Illinois.  
34 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
35 Teacher Certification Board, shall design and implement a  
36 system of examinations and various other criteria which shall

1 be required prior to the issuance of Initial Teaching  
2 Certificates and Standard Teaching Certificates. These  
3 examinations and indicators shall be based on national and  
4 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the  
5 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
6 Teacher Certification Board. The State Board of Education may  
7 adopt any and all regulations necessary to implement and  
8 administer this Section.

9 (h) The State Board of Education shall report to the  
10 Illinois General Assembly and the Governor with  
11 recommendations for further changes and improvements to the  
12 teacher certification system no later than July 1, 1999 and on  
13 an annual basis until July 1, 2001.

14 (Source: P.A. 92-734, eff. 7-25-02; 93-679, eff. 6-30-04.)