

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 21-25 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-25) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-25)

7 Sec. 21-25. School service personnel certificate.

8 (a) For purposes of this Section, "school service  
9 personnel" means persons employed and performing appropriate  
10 services in an Illinois public or State-operated elementary  
11 school, secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement  
12 with a governing body or board of control or a charter school  
13 operating in compliance with the Charter Schools Law in a  
14 position requiring a school service personnel certificate.

15 Subject to the provisions of Section 21-1a, a school  
16 service personnel certificate shall be issued to those  
17 applicants of good character, good health, a citizen of the  
18 United States and at least 19 years of age who have a  
19 Bachelor's degree with not fewer than 120 semester hours from a  
20 regionally accredited institution of higher learning and who  
21 meets the requirements established by the State Superintendent  
22 of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
23 Certification Board. A school service personnel certificate

1 with a school nurse endorsement may be issued to a person who  
2 holds a bachelor of science degree from an institution of  
3 higher learning accredited by the North Central Association or  
4 other comparable regional accrediting association. Persons  
5 seeking any other endorsement on the school service personnel  
6 certificate shall be recommended for the endorsement by a  
7 recognized teacher education institution as having completed a  
8 program of preparation approved by the State Superintendent of  
9 Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification  
10 Board.

11 (b) Until August 30, 2002, a school service personnel  
12 certificate endorsed for school social work may be issued to a  
13 student who has completed a school social work program that has  
14 not been approved by the State Superintendent of Education,  
15 provided that each of the following conditions is met:

16 (1) The program was offered by a recognized, public  
17 teacher education institution that first enrolled students  
18 in its master's degree program in social work in 1998;

19 (2) The student applying for the school service  
20 personnel certificate was enrolled in the institution's  
21 master's degree program in social work on or after May 11,  
22 1998;

23 (3) The State Superintendent verifies that the student  
24 has completed coursework that is substantially similar to  
25 that required in approved school social work programs,  
26 including (i) not fewer than 600 clock hours of a

1 supervised internship in a school setting or (ii) if the  
2 student has completed part of a supervised internship in a  
3 school setting prior to the effective date of this  
4 amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly and receives  
5 the prior approval of the State Superintendent, not fewer  
6 than 300 additional clock hours of supervised work in a  
7 public school setting under the supervision of a certified  
8 school social worker who certifies that the supervised work  
9 was completed in a satisfactory manner; and

10 (4) The student has passed a test of basic skills and  
11 the test of subject matter knowledge required by Section  
12 21-1a.

13 This subsection (b) does not apply after August 29, 2002.

14 (c) A school service personnel certificate shall be  
15 endorsed with the area of Service as determined by the State  
16 Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State  
17 Teacher Certification Board.

18 The holder of such certificate shall be entitled to all of  
19 the rights and privileges granted holders of a valid teaching  
20 certificate, including teacher benefits, compensation and  
21 working conditions.

22 When the holder of such certificate has earned a master's  
23 degree, including 8 semester hours of graduate professional  
24 education from a recognized institution of higher learning, and  
25 has at least 2 years of successful school experience while  
26 holding such certificate, the certificate may be endorsed for

1 supervision.

2 (d) Persons who have successfully achieved National Board  
3 certification through the National Board for Professional  
4 Teaching Standards shall be issued a Master School Service  
5 Personnel Certificate, valid for 10 years and renewable  
6 thereafter every 10 years through compliance with requirements  
7 set forth by the State Board of Education, in consultation with  
8 the State Teacher Certification Board. However, each holder of  
9 a Master School Service Personnel Certificate shall be eligible  
10 for a corresponding position in this State in the areas for  
11 which he or she holds a Master Certificate without satisfying  
12 any other requirements of this Code, except for those  
13 requirements pertaining to criminal background checks.

14 (e) School service personnel certificates are renewable  
15 every 5 years and may be renewed as provided in this Section.  
16 Requests for renewals must be submitted, in a format prescribed  
17 by the State Board of Education, to the regional office of  
18 education responsible for the school where the holder is  
19 employed.

20 Upon completion of at least 80 hours of continuing  
21 professional development as provided in this subsection (e), a  
22 person who holds a valid school service personnel certificate  
23 shall have his or her certificate renewed for a period of 5  
24 years. A person who (i) holds an active license issued by the  
25 State as a clinical professional counselor, a professional  
26 counselor, a clinical social worker, a social worker, or a

1 speech-language pathologist; (ii) holds national certification  
2 as a Nationally Certified School Psychologist from the National  
3 School Psychology Certification Board; (iii) is nationally  
4 certified as a National Certified School Nurse from the  
5 National Board for Certification of School Nurses; (iv) is  
6 nationally certified as a National Certified Counselor or  
7 National Certified School Counselor from the National Board for  
8 Certified Counselors; or (v) holds a Certificate of Clinical  
9 Competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing  
10 Association shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing  
11 professional development requirements established by the State  
12 Board of Education and the State Teacher Certification Board to  
13 renew a school service personnel certificate.

14 School service personnel certificates may be renewed by the  
15 State Teacher Certification Board based upon proof of  
16 continuing professional development. The State Board of  
17 Education shall (i) establish a procedure for renewing school  
18 service personnel certificates, which shall include without  
19 limitation annual timelines for the renewal process and the  
20 components set forth in this Section; (ii) approve or  
21 disapprove the providers of continuing professional  
22 development activities; and (iii) provide, on a timely basis to  
23 all school service personnel certificate holders, regional  
24 superintendents of schools, school districts, and others with  
25 an interest in continuing professional development,  
26 information about the standards and requirements established

1 pursuant to this subsection (e).

2 Any school service personnel certificate held by an  
3 individual employed and performing services in an Illinois  
4 public or State-operated elementary school, secondary school,  
5 or cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or  
6 board of control in a certificated school service personnel  
7 position or in a charter school in compliance with the Charter  
8 Schools Law must be maintained Valid and Active through  
9 certificate renewal activities specified in the certificate  
10 renewal procedure established pursuant to this Section,  
11 provided that a holder of a Valid and Active certificate who is  
12 only employed on either a part-time basis or day-to-day basis  
13 as a substitute shall pay only the required registration fee to  
14 renew his or her certificate and maintain it as Valid and  
15 Active. All other school service personnel certificates held  
16 may be maintained as Valid and Exempt through the registration  
17 process provided for in the certificate renewal procedure  
18 established pursuant to Section 21-14 of this Code. A Valid and  
19 Exempt certificate must be immediately activated, through  
20 procedures developed by the State Board of Education upon the  
21 certificate holder becoming employed and performing services  
22 in an Illinois public or State-operated elementary school,  
23 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement with a  
24 governing body or board of control in a certificated school  
25 service personnel position or in a charter school operating in  
26 compliance with the Charter Schools Law. A holder of a Valid

1 and Exempt certificate may activate his or her certificate  
2 through procedures provided for in the certificate renewal  
3 procedure established pursuant to this Section.

4 A school service personnel certificate that has been  
5 maintained as Valid and Active for the 5 years of the  
6 certificate's validity shall be renewed as Valid and Active  
7 upon the certificate holder (i) completing the National Board  
8 for Professional Teaching Standards process in an area of  
9 concentration comparable to the holder's school service  
10 personnel certificate of endorsement or (ii) earning 80  
11 continuing professional development units as described in this  
12 Section. If, however, the certificate holder has maintained the  
13 certificate as Valid and Exempt for a portion of the 5-year  
14 period of validity, the number of continuing professional  
15 development units needed to renew the certificate as Valid and  
16 Active must be proportionately reduced by the amount of time  
17 the certificate was Valid and Exempt. If a certificate holder  
18 is employed and performs services requiring the holder's school  
19 service personnel certificate on a part-time basis for all or a  
20 portion of the certificate's 5-year period of validity, the  
21 number of continuing professional development units needed to  
22 renew the certificate as Valid and Active shall be reduced by  
23 50% for the amount of time the certificate holder has been  
24 employed and performing such services on a part-time basis.  
25 "Part-time" means less than 50% of the school day or school  
26 term.

1 Beginning July 1, 2008, in order to satisfy the  
2 requirements for continuing professional development provided  
3 for in this Section, each Valid and Active school service  
4 personnel certificate holder shall complete professional  
5 development activities that address the certificate or those  
6 certificates that are required of his or her certificated  
7 position, if the certificate holder is employed and performing  
8 services in an Illinois public or State operated elementary  
9 school, secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement  
10 with a governing body or board of control, or that certificate  
11 or those certificates most closely related to his or her  
12 teaching position, if the certificate holder is employed in a  
13 charter school. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection  
14 (e), the certificate holder's activities must address and must  
15 reflect the following continuing professional development  
16 purposes:

17 (1) Advance both the certificate holder's knowledge  
18 and skills consistent with the Illinois Standards for the  
19 service area in which the certificate is endorsed in order  
20 to keep the certificate holder current in that area.

21 (2) Develop the certificate holder's knowledge and  
22 skills in areas determined by the State Board of Education  
23 to be critical for all school service personnel.

24 (3) Address the knowledge, skills, and goals of the  
25 certificate holder's local school improvement plan, if the  
26 certificate holder is employed in an Illinois public or



1 State-operated elementary school, secondary school, or  
2 cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or  
3 board of control.

4 (4) Address the needs of serving students with  
5 disabilities, including adapting and modifying clinical or  
6 professional practices to meet the needs of students with  
7 disabilities and serving such students in the least  
8 restrictive environment.

9 The coursework or continuing professional development  
10 units ("CPDU") required under this subsection (e) must total 80  
11 CPDUs or the equivalent and must address 3 of the 4 purposes  
12 described in items (1) through (4) of this subsection (e).  
13  Holders of school service personnel certificates may fulfill  
14 this obligation with any combination of semester hours or CPDUs  
15 as follows:

16 (A) Collaboration and partnership activities related  
17 to improving the school service personnel certificate  
18 holder's knowledge and skills, including (i) participating  
19 on collaborative planning and professional improvement  
20 teams and committees; (ii) peer review and coaching; (iii)  
21 mentoring in a formal mentoring program, including service  
22 as a consulting teacher participating in a remediation  
23 process formulated under Section 24A-5 of this Code; (iv)  
24 participating in site-based management or decision-making  
25 teams, relevant committees, boards, or task forces  
26 directly related to school improvement plans; (v)

1 coordinating community resources in schools, if the  
2 project is a specific goal of the school improvement plan;  
3 (vi) facilitating parent education programs for a school,  
4 school district, or regional office of education directly  
5 related to student achievement or school improvement  
6 plans; (vii) participating in business, school, or  
7 community partnerships directly related to student  
8 achievement or school improvement plans; or (viii)  
9 supervising a student teacher (student services personnel)  
10 or teacher education candidate in clinical supervision,  
11 provided that the supervision may be counted only once  
12 during the course of 5 years.

13 (B) Coursework from a regionally accredited  
14 institution of higher learning related to one of the  
15 purposes listed in items (1) through (4) of this subsection  
16 (e), which shall apply at the rate of 15 continuing  
17 professional development units per semester hour of credit  
18 earned during the previous 5-year period when the status of  
19 the holder's school service personnel certificate was  
20 Valid and Active. Proportionate reductions shall apply  
21 when the holder's status was Valid and Active for less than  
22 the 5-year period preceding the renewal.

23 (C) Teaching college or university courses in areas  
24 relevant to the certificate area being renewed, provided  
25 that the teaching may be counted only once during the  
26 course of 5 years.

1           (D) Conferences, workshops, institutes, seminars, or  
2           symposiums designed to improve the certificate holder's  
3           knowledge and skills in the service area and applicable to  
4           the purposes listed in items (1) through (4) of this  
5           subsection (e). One CPDU shall be awarded for each hour of  
6           attendance. No one shall receive credit for conferences,  
7           workshops, institutes, seminars, or symposiums that are  
8           designed for entertainment, promotional, or commercial  
9           purposes or that are solely inspirational or motivational.  
10          The State Superintendent of Education and regional  
11          superintendents of schools are authorized to review the  
12          activities and events provided or to be provided under this  
13          subdivision (D) and to investigate complaints regarding  
14          those activities and events. Either the State  
15          Superintendent of Education or a regional superintendent  
16          of schools may recommend that the State Board of Education  
17          disapprove those activities and events considered to be  
18          inconsistent with this subdivision (D).

19          (E) Completing non-university credit directly related  
20          to student achievement, school improvement plans, or State  
21          priorities.

22          (F) Participating in or presenting at workshops,  
23          seminars, conferences, institutes, or symposiums.

24          (G) Training as external reviewers for quality  
25          assurance.

26          (H) Training as reviewers of university teacher

1 preparation programs.

2 (I) Other educational experiences related to improving  
3 the school service personnel's knowledge and skills as a  
4 teacher, including (i) participating in action research  
5 and inquiry projects; (ii) traveling related to one's  
6 assignment and directly related to school service  
7 personnel achievement or school improvement plans and  
8 approved by the regional superintendent of schools or his  
9 or her designee at least 30 days prior to the travel  
10 experience, provided that the traveling shall not include  
11 time spent commuting to destinations where the learning  
12 experience will occur; (iii) participating in study groups  
13 related to student achievement or school improvement  
14 plans; (iv) serving on a statewide education-related  
15 committee, including without limitation the State Teacher  
16 Certification Board, State Board of Education strategic  
17 agenda teams, or the State Advisory Council on Education of  
18 Children with Disabilities; (v) participating in  
19 work/learn programs or internships; or (vi) developing a  
20 portfolio of student and teacher work.

21 (J) Professional leadership experiences related to  
22 improving the teacher's knowledge and skills as a teacher,  
23 including (i) participating in curriculum development or  
24 assessment activities at the school, school district,  
25 regional office of education, State, or national level;  
26 (ii) participating in team or department leadership in a

1       school or school district; (iii) participating on external  
2       or internal school or school district review teams; (iv)  
3       publishing educational articles, columns, or books  
4       relevant to the certificate area being renewed; or (v)  
5       participating in non-strike-related professional  
6       association or labor organization service or activities  
7       related to professional development.

8       (Source: P.A. 94-105, eff. 7-1-05.)

9       Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
10      2008.