

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 21B-30 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

8 (a) This Section applies beginning on July 1, 2012.

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required  
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
18 Section. No score on a test required under this Section, other  
19 than a test of basic skills, shall be more than 5 years old at  
20 the time that an individual makes application for an educator  
21 license or endorsement.

22 (c) Applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or  
23 an Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass

1 a test of basic skills before the license is issued, unless the  
2 endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage  
3 of the test. All applicants completing Illinois-approved,  
4 teacher education or school service personnel preparation  
5 programs shall be required to pass the State Board of  
6 Education's recognized test of basic skills prior to starting  
7 their student teaching or starting the final semester of their  
8 internship, unless required earlier at the discretion of the  
9 recognized, Illinois institution in which they are completing  
10 their approved program. ~~No candidate may be fully admitted into~~  
11 ~~an educator preparation program at a recognized Illinois~~  
12 ~~institution until he or she has passed a test of basic skills.~~  
13 An individual who passes a test of basic skills does not need  
14 to do so again for subsequent endorsements or other educator  
15 licenses.

16 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
17 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
18 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
19 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall  
20 be allowed to student teach, serve as the teacher of record, or  
21 begin an internship or residency required for licensure until  
22 he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

23 (e) All applicants seeking a State license endorsed in a  
24 teaching field shall pass the assessment of professional  
25 teaching (APT). Passage of the APT is required for completion  
26 of an approved Illinois educator preparation program.

1           (f) Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates  
2 completing teacher preparation programs in this State are  
3 required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher  
4 effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in  
5 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
6 Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher  
7 preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher  
8 performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

9           (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and  
10 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that  
11 from time to time are designated by the State Board of  
12 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
13 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an  
14 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State  
15 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
16 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a  
17 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and  
18 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess  
19 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must  
20 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person  
21 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,  
22 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the  
23 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score  
24 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of  
25 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
26 and Licensure Board. The tests shall be administered not fewer

1 than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be designated  
2 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
3 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

4 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
5 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
6 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
7 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code  
8 in the English language and in the language of the transitional  
9 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

10 (h) Except as provided in Section 34-6 of this Code, the  
11 provisions of this Section shall apply equally in any school  
12 district subject to Article 34 of this Code.

13 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
14 testing requirements under this Section shall include  
15 provisions governing test selection, test validation and  
16 determination of a passing score, administration of the tests,  
17 frequency of administration, applicant fees, frequency of  
18 applicants taking the tests, the years for which a score is  
19 valid, and appropriate special accommodations. The State Board  
20 of Education shall develop such rules as may be needed to  
21 ensure uniformity from year to year in the level of difficulty  
22 for each form of an assessment.

23 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)