

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 Sections  
5 21B-10, 21B-20, 21B-30, 21B-35, and 21B-105 and by adding  
6 Sections 21B-32 and 21B-47 as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/21B-10)

8 Sec. 21B-10. State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
9 Board.

10 (a) The State Teacher Certification Board, which had been  
11 established under Section 21-13 of the School Code prior to  
12 this amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, shall be  
13 renamed the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.  
14 References in law to the State Teacher Certification Board  
15 shall mean the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.  
16 The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board shall  
17 consist of the State Superintendent of Education or a  
18 representative appointed by him or her, who shall be  
19 ex-officio chairperson, 5 administrative or faculty members of  
20 public or private colleges or universities located in this  
21 State, 3 administrative or faculty members of public community  
22 colleges located in this State, 3 administrators and 10  
23 classroom teachers employed in the public schools (5 of whom

1 must be members of and nominated by a statewide professional  
2 teachers' organization and 5 of whom must be members of and  
3 nominated by a different statewide professional teachers'  
4 organization), and one regional superintendent of schools, all  
5 of whom shall be appointed by the State Board of Education;  
6 provided that at least one of the administrators and at least 3  
7 of the classroom teachers so appointed must be employees of a  
8 school district that is subject to the provisions of Article  
9 34 of this Code. A statewide professional teachers'  
10 organization and a different statewide professional teachers'  
11 organization shall submit to the State Board of Education for  
12 consideration at least 3 names of accomplished teachers for  
13 every one vacancy or expiring term in a classroom teacher  
14 position. The nominations submitted to the State Board of  
15 Education under this Section to fill a vacancy or an expiring  
16 term shall be advisory. Nomination for State Educator  
17 Preparation and Licensure Board members must be submitted to  
18 the State Board of Education within 30 days after the vacancy  
19 or vacancies occur. Nominations to fill an expiring term must  
20 be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education ~~State~~  
21 ~~Board of Education~~ at least 30 days before the expiration of  
22 that term. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this  
23 Section, if a sufficient number of nominations are not  
24 received by the State Superintendent of Education ~~State Board~~  
25 ~~of Education~~ for a vacancy or expiring term within the 30-day  
26 period, then the State Superintendent of Education ~~State Board~~

1 ~~of Education~~ may appoint any qualified person, in the same  
2 manner as the original appointment, to fill the vacancy or  
3 expiring term. The regular term of each member is 3 years, and  
4 an individual may be appointed for no more than 2 consecutive  
5 terms. The term of an appointed member of the State Educator  
6 Preparation and Licensure Board shall expire on June 30 of his  
7 or her final year.

8 The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board may  
9 allow one member representing the Board of Higher Education  
10 and one member representing the Illinois Community College  
11 Board to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members on the Board.

12 (b) The State Board of Education shall appoint a secretary  
13 of the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

14 (c) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board  
15 shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly and such other  
16 special meetings as may be necessary.

17 (d) The necessary expenses of the State Educator  
18 Preparation and Licensure Board shall be provided through the  
19 State Board of Education. The State Board of Education, in  
20 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
21 Board, may adopt such rules as may be necessary for the  
22 administration of this Article.

23 (e) (Blank).

24 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18.)

1           Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of  
2 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,  
3 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
4 required to be licensed must have one of the following  
5 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an  
6 educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute  
7 teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2028, a short-term  
8 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
9 individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
10 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
11 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
12 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
13 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

14           The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
15 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
16 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for  
17 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

18           (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)  
19 have successfully completed an approved educator  
20 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by  
21 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation  
22 program, (ii) have successfully completed the required  
23 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have  
24 successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,  
25 the identification of, and the methods of instruction for  
26 the exceptional child, including, without limitation,

1 children with learning disabilities, (iv) have  
2 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading  
3 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other  
4 criteria established by rule of the State Board of  
5 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.  
6 Persons seeking a Professional Educator License with a  
7 School support personnel endorsement or chief school  
8 business official endorsement are exempt from the  
9 requirements in items (iii) and (iv). All Professional  
10 Educator Licenses are valid until June 30 immediately  
11 following 5 years of the license being issued. The  
12 Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with  
13 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is  
14 eligible to practice. For an early childhood education  
15 endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student  
16 teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher  
17 preparation program through placement in a setting with  
18 children from birth through grade 2, and the individual  
19 may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The  
20 student teaching experience must meet the requirements of  
21 and be approved by the individual's early childhood  
22 teacher preparation program.

23 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
24 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
25 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
26 in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable

1 content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

2 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
3 License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
4 that limits the license holder to one particular position  
5 or does not require completion of an approved educator  
6 program or both.

7 An individual with an Educator License with  
8 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
9 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
10 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

11 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
12 with the following endorsements:

13 (A) (Blank).

14 (B) Alternative provisional educator. An  
15 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
16 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
17 applicant who, at the time of applying for the  
18 endorsement, has done all of the following:

19 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
20 college or university with a minimum of a  
21 bachelor's degree.

22 (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of  
23 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
24 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this  
25 Code.

26 (iii) Passed a content area test, as required

1 under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

2 The alternative provisional educator endorsement is  
3 valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for a  
4 third year by an individual meeting the requirements set  
5 forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

6 (C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An  
7 alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on  
8 an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the  
9 holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
10 superintendent in a school district's central office.  
11 This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant  
12 who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has  
13 done all of the following:

14 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
15 college or university with a minimum of a master's  
16 degree in a management field other than education.

17 (ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5  
18 years in a management level position in a field  
19 other than education.

20 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase  
21 of an alternative route to superintendent  
22 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
23 of this Code.

24 (iv) Passed a content area test required under  
25 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

26 The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in

1 order to complete one full year of serving as a  
2 superintendent or assistant superintendent.

3 (D) (Blank).

4 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and  
5 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
6 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
7 has a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a  
8 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
9 or an accredited trade and technical institution and  
10 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of  
11 education in each area to be taught.

12 The career and technical educator endorsement on  
13 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
14 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
15 endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

16 An individual who holds a valid career and  
17 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
18 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's  
19 degree may substitute teach in career and technical  
20 education classrooms.

21 An individual who holds a valid career and  
22 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
23 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
24 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
25 Educator License.

26 (F) (Blank).

1           (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A  
2 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
3 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
4 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
5 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who  
6 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets  
7 all of the following requirements:

8           (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
9 writing ability in the language other than English  
10 in which transitional bilingual education is  
11 offered.

12           (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
13 communicate in English.

14           (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
15 previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
16 bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and  
17 comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
18 authorization issued by a foreign country or holds  
19 a degree from an institution of higher learning in  
20 a foreign country that the State Educator  
21 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
22 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
23 regionally accredited institution of higher  
24 learning in the United States.

25           A transitional bilingual educator endorsement  
26 shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12,

1 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
2 of the endorsement being issued, and shall not be  
3 renewed.

4 Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator  
5 endorsement shall not be employed to replace any  
6 presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be  
7 replaced for any reason.

8 (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
9 alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
10 other than English in the public schools, an  
11 individual who holds an Educator License with  
12 Stipulations may also apply for a language  
13 endorsement, provided that the applicant provides  
14 satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the  
15 following requirements:

16 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
17 endorsement.

18 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
19 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
20 by passing the applicable language content test  
21 required by the State Board of Education.

22 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from  
23 a regionally accredited institution of higher  
24 education or, for individuals educated in a  
25 country other than the United States, holds a  
26 degree from an institution of higher learning in a

1 foreign country that the State Educator  
2 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
3 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
4 regionally accredited institution of higher  
5 learning in the United States.

6 (iv) (Blank).

7 A language endorsement on an Educator License with  
8 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through  
9 grade 12 for the same validity period as the  
10 individual's transitional bilingual educator  
11 endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations  
12 and shall not be renewed.

13 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
14 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
15 License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
16 individual who is being recruited by a particular  
17 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
18 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
19 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of  
20 the following requirements:

21 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a  
22 bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

23 (ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the  
24 grade level for which he or she will be employed.

25 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
26 subject to be taught.

1 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
2 language.

3 A holder of a visiting international educator  
4 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
5 shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education  
6 programs in the language that was the medium of  
7 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,  
8 provided that he or she passes the English Language  
9 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing  
10 skills in English identified by the State Board of  
11 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
12 Preparation and Licensure Board.

13 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
14 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5  
15 years and shall not be renewed.

16 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
17 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
18 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
19 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and  
20 (i) holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60  
21 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited  
22 institution of higher education; (ii) has passed a  
23 paraprofessional competency test under subsection  
24 (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at least 18 years  
25 of age and will be using the Educator License with  
26 Stipulations exclusively for grades prekindergarten

1 through grade 8, until the individual reaches the age  
2 of 19 years and otherwise meets the criteria for a  
3 paraprofessional educator endorsement pursuant to this  
4 subparagraph (J). The paraprofessional educator  
5 endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately  
6 following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and  
7 may be renewed through application and payment of the  
8 appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of  
9 this Code. An individual who holds only a  
10 paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject  
11 to additional requirements in order to renew the  
12 endorsement.

13 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
14 business official endorsement on an Educator License  
15 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
16 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
17 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
18 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
19 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
20 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
21 State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
22 business administrators and by passage of the  
23 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
24 content area test.

25 The chief school business official endorsement may  
26 also be affixed to the Educator License with

1           Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
2           master's degree in business administration, finance,  
3           accounting, or public administration and who completes  
4           an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school  
5           business management from a regionally accredited  
6           institution of higher education and passes the  
7           applicable State tests, including an applicable  
8           content area test. This endorsement shall be required  
9           for any individual employed as a chief school business  
10          official.

11           The chief school business official endorsement on  
12          an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
13          June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
14          endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
15          license holder completes renewal requirements as  
16          required for individuals who hold a Professional  
17          Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
18          official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
19          rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
20          Education.

21           The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules  
22          necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

23           (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
24          in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
25          with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
26          completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation

1 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
2 and who has not successfully completed an  
3 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
4 who meets all of the following requirements:

5 (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

6 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
7 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

8 (iii) Has passed an applicable content area  
9 test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

10 (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
11 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
12 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
13 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
14 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
15 Board.

16 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
17 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
18 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
19 be renewed.

20 (M) (Blank).

21 (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
22 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
23 may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

24 (O) Provisional career and technical educator. A  
25 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
26 on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued

1 to an applicant who has a minimum of 8,000 hours of  
2 work experience in the skill for which the applicant  
3 is seeking the endorsement. Each employing school  
4 board and regional office of education shall provide  
5 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent  
6 of Education at the time the application is submitted  
7 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional  
8 Educator License or an Educator License with  
9 Stipulations with a career and technical educator  
10 endorsement is available to teach and that actual  
11 circumstances require such issuance.

12 A provisional career and technical educator  
13 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
14 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
15 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

16 An individual who holds a provisional career and  
17 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
18 with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in  
19 career and technical education classrooms.

20 An individual who holds a provisional career and  
21 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
22 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
23 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
24 Educator License.

25 (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
26 License may be issued to qualified applicants for

1 substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
2 prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
3 Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
4 a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's  
5 degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution  
6 of higher education or must be enrolled in an approved  
7 educator preparation program in this State and have earned  
8 at least 90 credit hours.

9 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

10 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute  
11 teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
12 has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
13 Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked,  
14 then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
15 Substitute Teaching License.

16 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
17 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
18 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
19 contract because of an emergency situation, then a  
20 district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer  
21 than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the  
22 district if the district notifies the appropriate regional  
23 office of education within 5 business days after the  
24 employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant  
25 position. A district may continue to employ that same  
26 substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90

1 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever  
2 is greater, if, prior to the expiration of the  
3 30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a  
4 written request with the appropriate regional office of  
5 education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis  
6 that the position remains vacant and the district  
7 continues to actively seek qualified candidates and  
8 provides documentation that it has provided training  
9 specific to the position, including training on meeting  
10 the needs of students with disabilities and English  
11 learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be  
12 granted in writing by the regional office of education. An  
13 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
14 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to  
15 fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher  
16 capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications  
17 or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified  
18 candidates, and the district is actively engaged in  
19 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the  
20 vacant position.

21 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
22 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
23 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
24 than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year  
25 through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school  
26 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the

1 same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a  
2 Professional Educator License or Educator License with  
3 Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days  
4 for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same  
5 school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the  
6 number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not  
7 apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of  
8 this Code.

9 A school district may not require an individual who  
10 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator  
11 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute  
12 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

13 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
14 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may  
15 apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a  
16 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term  
17 Substitute Teaching License may be issued to a qualified  
18 applicant for substitute teaching in all grades of the  
19 public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12.  
20 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible  
21 for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute  
22 Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have  
23 completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally  
24 accredited institution of higher education.

25 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for  
26 substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an

1 individual has had his or her Professional Educator  
2 License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or  
3 revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
4 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

5 The provisions of Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this  
6 Code apply to short-term substitute teachers.

7 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
8 License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per  
9 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
10 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who  
11 is under contract, a school district may not hire an  
12 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
13 License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due  
14 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
15 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual  
16 holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must  
17 complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or  
18 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public  
19 school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this  
20 Section are valid for 5 years.

21 (Source: P.A. 102-711, eff. 1-1-23; 102-712, eff. 4-27-22;  
22 102-713, eff. 1-1-23; 102-717, eff. 4-29-22; 102-894, eff.  
23 5-20-22; 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;  
24 103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.  
25 7-1-24.)

1 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

2 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

3 (a) (Blank).

4 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
5 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
6 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be  
7 required prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These  
8 examinations and indicators must be based on national and  
9 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the  
10 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
11 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. By July 1, 2027, the  
12 State Superintendent of Education shall begin incorporating  
13 the following topics into revised examinations for individuals  
14 seeking a Professional Educator License endorsed in teaching  
15 or administration, excluding a chief school business official  
16 endorsement: (i) methods of instruction of the exceptional  
17 child; (ii) methods of reading and reading in the content  
18 area; and (iii) instructional strategies for English learners.

19 The State Board of Education may adopt such rules as may be  
20 necessary to implement and administer this Section.

21 (c) (Blank).

22 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a  
23 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an  
24 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a  
25 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the  
26 endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other

1 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section  
2 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

3 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
4 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
5 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
6 shall be no exception to this requirement except for an  
7 applicant seeking a school support personnel endorsement who  
8 holds an active and valid professional license issued by the  
9 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation in the  
10 same subject matter as the endorsement sought, as specified by  
11 rule by the State Board, or as provided under subparagraph (P)  
12 of paragraph (1) of Section 21B-20.

13 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable  
14 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date  
15 of Public Act 103-402) to develop a plan to transition the test  
16 of content area knowledge in the endorsement area of  
17 elementary education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to  
18 a content area test that contains testing elements that cover  
19 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,  
20 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate  
21 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable  
22 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State  
23 Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on  
24 the language and literacy portion of the test on the  
25 recommended cut-score determined in the formal  
26 standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a

1 particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The  
2 State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of  
3 candidates in each preparation program who take the test and  
4 the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

5 (e) (Blank).

6 (f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of  
7 Public Act 103-488) through August 31, 2026 ~~2025~~, no candidate  
8 completing a teacher preparation program in this State or  
9 candidate subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required  
10 to pass a teacher performance assessment. Except as otherwise  
11 provided in this Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until  
12 August 4, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) and  
13 beginning again on September 1, 2029 ~~2025~~, all candidates  
14 completing teacher preparation programs in this State and all  
15 candidates subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required  
16 to pass a teacher performance assessment approved by the State  
17 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
18 Preparation and Licensure Board. Any candidate who has  
19 successfully completed student teaching or has met one of the  
20 student teaching exceptions set forth in rules prior to  
21 September 1, 2028 is exempt from this requirement. A candidate  
22 may not be required to submit test materials by video  
23 submission. Subject to appropriation, an individual who holds  
24 a Professional Educator License and is employed for a minimum  
25 of one school year by a school district designated as Tier 1  
26 under Section 18-8.15 may, after application to the State

1 Board, receive from the State Board a refund for any costs  
2 associated with completing the teacher performance assessment  
3 under this subsection.

4 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is  
5 created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective  
6 teacher performance assessment systems for implementation  
7 across all educator preparation programs in this State, with  
8 the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and  
9 supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.  
10 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,  
11 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force  
12 shall consist of all of the following members:

13 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
14 President of the Senate.

15 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
16 Minority Leader of the Senate.

17 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,  
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

19 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,  
20 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives.

22 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional  
23 teachers' organization, appointed by the State  
24 Superintendent of Education.

25 (6) One member who represents a different statewide  
26 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the

1 State Superintendent of Education.

2 (7) One member from a statewide organization  
3 representing school principals, appointed by the State  
4 Superintendent of Education.

5 (8) One member from a statewide organization  
6 representing regional superintendents of schools,  
7 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

8 (9) One member from a statewide organization  
9 representing school administrators, appointed by the State  
10 Superintendent of Education.

11 (10) One member representing a school district  
12 organized under Article 34 of this Code, appointed by the  
13 State Superintendent of Education.

14 (11) One member of an association representing rural  
15 and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent  
16 of Education.

17 (12) One member representing a suburban school  
18 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
19 Education.

20 (13) One member from a statewide organization  
21 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of  
22 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
23 of Education.

24 (14) One member from a statewide organization  
25 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the  
26 State Superintendent of Education.

1           (15) One member from a statewide organization  
2 representing school districts in the collar counties of  
3 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
4 of Education.

5           (16) Three members, each representing a different  
6 public university in this State and each a current member  
7 of the faculty of an approved educator preparation  
8 program, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
9 Education.

10          (17) Three members, each representing a different  
11 4-year nonpublic university or college in this State and  
12 each a current member of the faculty of an approved  
13 educator preparation program, appointed by the State  
14 Superintendent of Education.

15          (18) One member of the Board of Higher Education,  
16 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

17          (19) One member representing a statewide policy  
18 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students  
19 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
20 Education.

21          (20) One member representing a statewide organization  
22 focused on research-based education policy to support a  
23 school system that prepares all students for college, a  
24 career, and democratic citizenship, appointed by the State  
25 Superintendent of Education.

26          (21) Two members representing an early childhood

1 advocacy organization, appointed by the State  
2 Superintendent of Education.

3 (22) One member representing a statewide organization  
4 that partners with educator preparation programs and  
5 school districts to support the growth and development of  
6 preservice teachers, appointed by the State Superintendent  
7 of Education.

8 (23) One member representing a statewide organization  
9 that advocates for educational equity and racial justice  
10 in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
11 Education.

12 (24) One member representing a statewide organization  
13 that represents school boards, appointed by the State  
14 Superintendent of Education.

15 (25) One member who has, within the last 5 years,  
16 served as a cooperating teacher, appointed by the State  
17 Superintendent of Education.

18 Members of the Task Force shall serve without  
19 compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of  
20 the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent  
21 meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,  
22 who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of  
23 Education. The State Board of Education shall provide  
24 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

25 On or before October 31, 2024, the Task Force shall report  
26 on its work, including recommendations on a teacher

1 performance assessment system in this State, to the State  
2 Board of Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is  
3 dissolved upon submission of this report.

4 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher  
5 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to  
6 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in  
7 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
8 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing  
9 organization or tests designed by the State Board of  
10 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
11 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall  
12 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The  
13 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no  
14 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis  
15 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to  
16 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The  
17 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State  
18 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
19 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of  
20 Education's rules for scoring the content area knowledge test  
21 may include scoring and retaking of each test section  
22 separately and independently. The tests shall be administered  
23 not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be  
24 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
25 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

26 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess

1 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
2 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
3 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this  
4 Code in the English language and in the language of the  
5 transitional bilingual education program requested by the  
6 applicant.

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

10 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
11 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without  
12 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test  
13 validation, and determination of a passing score,  
14 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
15 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
16 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
17 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop  
18 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to  
19 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

20 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;  
21 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-780, eff.  
22 8-2-24; 103-811, eff. 8-9-24; 103-846, eff. 8-9-24.)

23 (105 ILCS 5/21B-32 new)

24 Sec. 21B-32. Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory  
25 Committee.

1       (a) The State Superintendent of Education shall establish  
2 a Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory Committee of no more  
3 than 15 members to aid in operationalizing and creating a  
4 pilot, State-developed, teacher performance assessment (TPA).  
5 The Committee shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

6           (1) Create materials and resources that are necessary  
7 for the implementation of a TPA.

8           (2) Identify sources of evidence required for the  
9 evaluation of a TPA.

10          (3) Monitor a multiyear pilot program to create a  
11 State-developed TPA and make recommendations informed by  
12 collected data of modifications to the TPA.

13          (4) Support the State Board of Education in developing  
14 rubrics and the resources necessary for the completion and  
15 evaluation of the valid and reliable assessment, creating  
16 the required training for evaluators of the assessment,  
17 implementing the multiyear pilot program, including, but  
18 not limited to, establishing criteria and sufficient  
19 evidence for successful completion of the TPA, and  
20 recommending refinements to the assessment as needed.

21       (b) The membership of the Committee shall include  
22 individuals with expertise in assessment development,  
23 including statisticians and psychometricians, and individuals  
24 with expertise in the elements of effective teaching,  
25 including current Illinois educators. The membership of the  
26 Committee shall represent the ethnic, racial, and geographic

1 diversity of this State and include expertise across early  
2 childhood, elementary, middle, and high school settings, as  
3 well as expertise in the instruction of English learners and  
4 students with disabilities.

5 (c) The State Board of Education shall provide  
6 administrative support to the Committee.

7 (d) Members of the Committee shall serve without  
8 compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and  
9 necessary expenses, including travel, from funds appropriated  
10 to the State Board of Education for that purpose, subject to  
11 the rules of the appropriate travel control board.

12 (e) The first meeting of the Committee shall be at the call  
13 of the State Superintendent, and each subsequent meeting shall  
14 be at the call of the chairperson, who shall be designated by  
15 the State Superintendent. The Committee shall hold regular  
16 meetings at least quarterly and such other meetings as  
17 determined by its chairperson.

18 (f) Data from completed pilot TPAs from institutions of  
19 higher education with approved educator preparation programs  
20 shall be shared with the Committee, which shall, as  
21 applicable, provide an annual recommendation on the use of the  
22 TPA to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board and  
23 the State Board of Education.

24 (g) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
25 Committee, may adopt such rules as may be necessary for the  
26 administration of this Section.

1       (h) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2028.

2           (105 ILCS 5/21B-35)

3           Sec. 21B-35. Minimum requirements for educators trained in  
4 other states or countries.

5           (a) Any applicant who has not been entitled by an  
6 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois  
7 institution of higher education applying for a Professional  
8 Educator License endorsed in a teaching field or school  
9 support personnel area must meet the following requirements:

10           (1) the applicant must:

11               (A) hold a comparable and valid educator license  
12 or certificate, as defined by rule, with similar grade  
13 level and content area credentials from another state,  
14 with the State Board of Education having the authority  
15 to determine what constitutes similar grade level and  
16 content area credentials from another state;

17               (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally  
18 accredited institution of higher education; ~~and~~

19               (C) (blank); and ~~or~~

20               (D) have successfully passed all State  
21 examinations required by Section 21B-30; or

22           (2) the applicant must:

23               (A) have completed a state-approved program for  
24 the licensure area sought. Until July 1, 2027 or the  
25 date that the revised test for a particular content

1           area is implemented, whichever is later, the program  
2           must include,~~including~~ coursework concerning (i)  
3           methods of instruction of the exceptional child, (ii)  
4           methods of reading that align with all applicable  
5           standards set forth in Part 23 of Title 23 of the  
6           Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the  
7           content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for  
8           English learners;

9           (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally  
10          accredited institution of higher education;

11          (C) have successfully met all Illinois examination  
12          requirements, except that:

13                  (i) (blank);

14                  (ii) an applicant who has successfully  
15                  completed a test of content, as defined by rules,  
16                  at the time of initial licensure in another state  
17                  is not required to complete a test of content; and

18                  (iii) an applicant for a teaching endorsement  
19                  who has successfully completed an evidence-based  
20                  assessment of teacher effectiveness, as defined by  
21                  rules, at the time of initial licensure in another  
22                  state is not required to complete an  
23                  evidence-based assessment of teacher  
24                  effectiveness; and

25          (D) for an applicant for a teaching endorsement,  
26          have completed student teaching or an equivalent

1           experience or, for an applicant for a school service  
2           personnel endorsement, have completed an internship or  
3           an equivalent experience.

4           (b) In order to receive a Professional Educator License  
5           endorsed in a teaching field or school support personnel area,  
6           applicants trained in another country must meet all of the  
7           following requirements:

8           (1) Have completed a comparable education program in  
9           another country.

10          (2) Have had transcripts evaluated by an evaluation  
11          service approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

12          (3) Have a degree comparable to a degree from a  
13          regionally accredited institution of higher education.

14          (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised  
15          test for a particular content area is implemented,  
16          whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned  
17          to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the  
18          exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with  
19          all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23  
20          of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the  
21          content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for  
22          English learners. Applicants seeking a school support  
23          personnel endorsement are exempt from this paragraph (4).

24          (5) (Blank).

25          (6) (Blank).

26          (7) Have successfully met all State licensure

1 examination requirements. ~~Applicants who have successfully~~  
2 ~~completed a test of content, as defined by rules, at the~~  
3 ~~time of initial licensure in another country shall not be~~  
4 ~~required to complete a test of content. Applicants for a~~  
5 ~~teaching endorsement who have successfully completed an~~  
6 ~~evidence based assessment of teacher effectiveness, as~~  
7 ~~defined by rules, at the time of initial licensure in~~  
8 ~~another country shall not be required to complete an~~  
9 ~~evidence based assessment of teacher effectiveness.~~

10 (8) Have completed student teaching or an equivalent  
11 experience.

12 (9) (Blank).

13 (b-5) All applicants who have not been entitled by an  
14 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois  
15 institution of higher education and applicants trained in  
16 another country applying for a Professional Educator License  
17 endorsed for principal or superintendent must hold a master's  
18 degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher  
19 education and hold a comparable and valid educator license or  
20 certificate with similar grade level and subject matter  
21 credentials, with the State Board of Education having the  
22 authority to determine what constitutes similar grade level  
23 and subject matter credentials from another state, or must  
24 meet all of the following requirements:

25 (1) Have completed an educator preparation program  
26 approved by another state or comparable educator program

1 in another country leading to the receipt of a license or  
2 certificate for the Illinois endorsement sought.

3 (2) Have successfully met all State licensure  
4 examination requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of  
5 this Code. ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a~~  
6 ~~test of content, as defined by rules, at the time of~~  
7 ~~initial licensure in another state or country shall not be~~  
8 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

9 (2.5) Have completed an internship, as defined by  
10 rule.

11 (3) (Blank).

12 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised  
13 test for a particular content area is implemented,  
14 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned  
15 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the  
16 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with  
17 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23  
18 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the  
19 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for  
20 English learners.

21 (4.5) (Blank).

22 (5) Have completed a master's degree.

23 (6) Have successfully completed teaching, school  
24 support, or administrative experience as defined by rule.

25 (b-7) All applicants who have not been entitled by an  
26 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois

1 institution of higher education applying for a Professional  
2 Educator License endorsed for Director of Special Education  
3 must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited  
4 institution of higher education and must hold a comparable and  
5 valid educator license or certificate with similar grade level  
6 and subject matter credentials, with the State Board of  
7 Education having the authority to determine what constitutes  
8 similar grade level and subject matter credentials from  
9 another state, or must meet all of the following requirements:

10 (1) Have completed a master's degree.

11 (2) Have 2 years of full-time experience providing  
12 special education services.

13 (3) Have successfully completed all examination  
14 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.  
15 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~  
16 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~  
17 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~  
18 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

19 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised  
20 test for a particular content area is implemented,  
21 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned  
22 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the  
23 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with  
24 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23  
25 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the  
26 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for

1 English learners.

2 (b-10) All applicants who have not been entitled by an  
3 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois  
4 institution of higher education applying for a Professional  
5 Educator License endorsed for chief school business official  
6 must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited  
7 institution of higher education and must hold a comparable and  
8 valid educator license or certificate with similar grade level  
9 and subject matter credentials, with the State Board of  
10 Education having the authority to determine what constitutes  
11 similar grade level and subject matter credentials from  
12 another state, or must meet all of the following requirements:

13 (1) Have completed a master's degree in school  
14 business management, finance, or accounting.

15 (2) Have successfully completed an internship in  
16 school business management or have 2 years of experience  
17 as a school business administrator.

18 (3) Have successfully met all State examination  
19 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.  
20 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~  
21 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~  
22 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~  
23 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

24 (4) (Blank). ~~Have completed modules aligned to~~  
25 ~~standards concerning methods of instruction of the~~  
26 ~~exceptional child, methods of reading and reading in the~~

1 ~~content area, and instructional strategies for English~~  
2 ~~learners.~~

3 (c) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
4 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
5 rules as may be necessary to implement this Section.

6 (Source: P.A. 102-539, eff. 8-20-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/21B-47 new)

8 Sec. 21B-47. Paraprofessional to Teacher Pathway Program.

9 (a) There is established the Paraprofessional Teacher  
10 Pathway Program. The Paraprofessional Teacher Pathway Program  
11 may be offered by a recognized institution approved to offer  
12 educator preparation programs by the State Board of Education,  
13 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and  
14 Licensure Board. The Program shall provide an expedited  
15 pathway for paraprofessionals to earn a Professional Educator  
16 License in a specific content area, including, but not limited  
17 to, elementary education or special education. The Program  
18 shall create a partnership with the institution and other  
19 entities, as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.

20 (b) The Program shall meet all of the following criteria:

21 (1) The Program shall include a program of study with  
22 coursework in instructional planning, instructional  
23 strategies, including special education, reading, and  
24 English language learning, classroom management, and the  
25 assessment of students and use of data to drive

1 instruction.

2 (2) The Program shall meet the criteria of 23 Ill.  
3 Adm. Code 25.25(a)(2)(A) relative to required coursework.

4 (3) The Program shall include student teaching or an  
5 equivalent experience.

6 (c) An individual shall meet all of the following  
7 requirements for entry into the Program:

8 (1) The individual holds a valid Educator License with  
9 Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement  
10 or a valid paraprofessional approval.

11 (2) The individual is employed as a paraprofessional  
12 providing service to one or more students within the  
13 licensure content area sought, such as elementary  
14 education or special education.

15 (3) The individual has worked at least 2 years as a  
16 paraprofessional.

17 (4) The individual has completed at least 60 semester  
18 hours of coursework from a regionally accredited  
19 institution of higher education.

20 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules  
21 necessary to implement this Section, including, but not  
22 limited to, program proposal requirements.

23 (105 ILCS 5/21B-105)

24 Sec. 21B-105. Granting of recognition; regional  
25 accreditation; definitions.

1           (a) "Recognized", as used in this Article in connection  
2 with the word "school" or "institution", means such college,  
3 university, or for-profit or not-for-profit entity that meets  
4 requirements set by the State Board of Education, in  
5 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
6 Board. Application for recognition of the school or  
7 institution as an educator preparation institution must be  
8 made to the State Board of Education. The State Board of  
9 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
10 and Licensure Board, shall set the criteria by which the  
11 school or institution is to be judged and, through the  
12 secretary of the State Board, arrange for an official  
13 inspection and shall grant recognition of such school or  
14 institution as may meet the required standards. If the  
15 standards include requirements with regard to education in  
16 acquiring skills in working with culturally distinctive  
17 students, as defined by the State Board of Education, then the  
18 rules of the State Board of Education shall include the  
19 criteria used to evaluate compliance with this requirement. No  
20 school or institution may make assignments of student teachers  
21 or teachers for practice teaching so as to promote segregation  
22 on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national  
23 origin.

24           Any for-profit or not-for-profit entity must also be  
25 approved by the Board of Higher Education.

26           All recommendations or entitlements for educator licensure

1 shall be made by a recognized institution operating a program  
2 of preparation for the license that is approved by the State  
3 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
4 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education,  
5 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and  
6 Licensure Board, shall have the power to define a major or  
7 minor when used as a basis for recognition and licensure  
8 purposes.

9 (b) "Regionally accredited", or "accredited", as used in  
10 this Article in connection with a university or institution,  
11 means an institution of higher education accredited by the  
12 North Central Association or other comparable regional  
13 accrediting association.

14 An institution of higher education approved to offer  
15 educator preparation programs in this State may, upon the  
16 request of a public community college in this State, enter  
17 into a partnership agreement with the community college to  
18 offer an approved educator preparation program leading to  
19 educator licensure for individuals who already hold a  
20 bachelor's degree. The partnership must be approved by the  
21 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
22 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

23 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the  
24 requirements of a partnership agreement under this subsection.

25 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18.)

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 105 ILCS 5/21B-10

4 105 ILCS 5/21B-20

5 105 ILCS 5/21B-30

6 105 ILCS 5/21B-32 new

7 105 ILCS 5/21B-35

8 105 ILCS 5/21B-47 new

9 105 ILCS 5/21B-105