

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.)

25 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

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 Beginning on September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2029,
5 all institutions of higher education offering educator
6 preparation programs in this State shall participate in the
7 pilot program set forth in Section 21B-32 for the teacher
8 performance assessment developed by the State Board of
9 Education.

10 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
11 administration of this subsection.

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

21 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
22 President of the Senate.

23 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
24 Minority Leader of the Senate.

25 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
26 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

1 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,
2 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
3 Representatives.

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

7 (6) One member who represents a different statewide
8 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the
9 State Superintendent of Education.

10 (7) One member from a statewide organization
11 representing school principals, appointed by the State
12 Superintendent of Education.

13 (8) One member from a statewide organization
14 representing regional superintendents of schools,
15 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

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

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

22 (11) One member of an association representing rural
23 and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent
24 of Education.

25 (12) One member representing a suburban school
26 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of

1 Education.

2 (13) One member from a statewide organization
3 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of
4 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
5 of Education.

6 (14) One member from a statewide organization
7 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the
8 State Superintendent of Education.

9 (15) One member from a statewide organization
10 representing school districts in the collar counties of
11 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
12 of Education.

13 (16) Three members, each representing a different
14 public university in this State and each a current member
15 of the faculty of an approved educator preparation
16 program, appointed by the State Superintendent of
17 Education.

18 (17) Three members, each representing a different
19 4-year nonpublic university or college in this State and
20 each a current member of the faculty of an approved
21 educator preparation program, appointed by the State
22 Superintendent of Education.

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

25 (19) One member representing a statewide policy
26 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students

1 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of
2 Education.

3 (20) One member representing a statewide organization
4 focused on research-based education policy to support a
5 school system that prepares all students for college, a
6 career, and democratic citizenship, appointed by the State
7 Superintendent of Education.

8 (21) Two members representing an early childhood
9 advocacy organization, appointed by the State
10 Superintendent of Education.

11 (22) One member representing a statewide organization
12 that partners with educator preparation programs and
13 school districts to support the growth and development of
14 preservice teachers, appointed by the State Superintendent
15 of Education.

16 (23) One member representing a statewide organization
17 that advocates for educational equity and racial justice
18 in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of
19 Education.

20 (24) One member representing a statewide organization
21 that represents school boards, appointed by the State
22 Superintendent of Education.

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

26 Members of the Task Force shall serve without

1 compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of
2 the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent
3 meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,
4 who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of
5 Education. The State Board of Education shall provide
6 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

7 On or before October 31, 2024, the Task Force shall report
8 on its work, including recommendations on a teacher
9 performance assessment system in this State, to the State
10 Board of Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is
11 dissolved upon submission of this report.

12 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher
13 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to
14 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in
15 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
16 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing
17 organization or tests designed by the State Board of
18 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
19 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall
20 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The
21 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no
22 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis
23 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to
24 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The
25 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State
26 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator

1 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of
2 Education's rules for scoring the content area knowledge test
3 may include scoring and retaking of each test section
4 separately and independently. The tests shall be administered
5 not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be
6 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation
7 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

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

18 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
19 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without
20 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test
21 validation, and determination of a passing score,
22 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
23 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
24 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
25 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
26 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to

1 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.
2 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;
3 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-780, eff.
4 8-2-24; 103-811, eff. 8-9-24; 103-846, eff. 8-9-24.)

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

6 Sec. 21B-32. Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory
7 Committee.

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

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

15 (2) Identify sources of evidence required for the
16 evaluation of a TPA.

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

20 (4) Support the State Board of Education in developing
21 rubrics and the resources necessary for the completion and
22 evaluation of the valid and reliable assessment, creating
23 the required training for evaluators of the assessment,
24 implementing the multiyear pilot program, including, but
25 not limited to, establishing criteria and sufficient

1 evidence for successful completion of the TPA, and
2 recommending refinements to the assessment as needed.

3 (b) The membership of the Committee shall include
4 individuals with expertise in assessment development,
5 including statisticians and psychometricians, and individuals
6 with expertise in the elements of effective teaching,
7 including current Illinois educators. The membership of the
8 Committee shall represent the ethnic, racial, and geographic
9 diversity of this State and include expertise across early
10 childhood, elementary, middle, and high school settings, as
11 well as expertise in the instruction of English learners and
12 students with disabilities.

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

15 (d) Members of the Committee shall serve without
16 compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and
17 necessary expenses, including travel, from funds appropriated
18 to the State Board of Education for that purpose, subject to
19 the rules of the appropriate travel control board.

20 (e) The first meeting of the Committee shall be at the call
21 of the State Superintendent, and each subsequent meeting shall
22 be at the call of the chairperson, who shall be designated by
23 the State Superintendent. The Committee shall hold regular
24 meetings at least quarterly and such other meetings as
25 determined by its chairperson.

26 (f) Data from completed pilot TPAs from institutions of

1 higher education with approved educator preparation programs
2 shall be shared with the Committee, which shall, as
3 applicable, provide an annual recommendation on the use of the
4 TPA to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board and
5 the State Board of Education.

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

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

10 (105 ILCS 5/21B-35)

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

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

18 (1) the applicant must:

19 (A) hold a comparable and valid educator license
20 or certificate, as defined by rule, with similar grade
21 level and content area credentials from another state,
22 with the State Board of Education having the authority
23 to determine what constitutes similar grade level and
24 content area credentials from another state;

25 (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally

1 accredited institution of higher education; ~~and~~

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

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

5 (2) the applicant must:

6 (A) have completed a state-approved program for
7 the licensure area sought. Until July 1, 2027 or the
8 date that the revised test for a particular content
9 area is implemented, whichever is later, the program
10 must include, ~~including~~ coursework concerning (i)
11 methods of instruction of the exceptional child, (ii)
12 methods of reading that align with all applicable
13 standards set forth in Part 23 of Title 23 of the
14 Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
15 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
16 English learners;

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

19 (C) have successfully met all Illinois examination
20 requirements, except that:

21 (i) (blank);

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

26 (iii) an applicant for a teaching endorsement

1 who has successfully completed an evidence-based
2 assessment of teacher effectiveness, as defined by
3 rules, at the time of initial licensure in another
4 state is not required to complete an
5 evidence-based assessment of teacher
6 effectiveness; and

7 (D) for an applicant for a teaching endorsement,
8 have completed student teaching or an equivalent
9 experience or, for an applicant for a school service
10 personnel endorsement, have completed an internship or
11 an equivalent experience.

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

16 (1) Have completed a comparable education program in
17 another country.

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

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

22 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised
23 test for a particular content area is implemented,
24 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned
25 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the
26 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with

1 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23
2 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
3 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
4 English learners. Applicants seeking a school support
5 personnel endorsement are exempt from this paragraph (4).

6 (5) (Blank).

7 (6) (Blank).

8 (7) Have successfully met all State licensure
9 examination requirements. ~~Applicants who have successfully~~
10 ~~completed a test of content, as defined by rules, at the~~
11 ~~time of initial licensure in another country shall not be~~
12 ~~required to complete a test of content. Applicants for a~~
13 ~~teaching endorsement who have successfully completed an~~
14 ~~evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness, as~~
15 ~~defined by rules, at the time of initial licensure in~~
16 ~~another country shall not be required to complete an~~
17 ~~evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness.~~

18 (8) Have completed student teaching or an equivalent
19 experience.

20 (9) (Blank).

21 (b-5) All applicants who have not been entitled by an
22 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois
23 institution of higher education and applicants trained in
24 another country applying for a Professional Educator License
25 endorsed for principal or superintendent must hold a master's
26 degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher

1 education and hold a comparable and valid educator license or
2 certificate with similar grade level and subject matter
3 credentials, with the State Board of Education having the
4 authority to determine what constitutes similar grade level
5 and subject matter credentials from another state, or must
6 meet all of the following requirements:

7 (1) Have completed an educator preparation program
8 approved by another state or comparable educator program
9 in another country leading to the receipt of a license or
10 certificate for the Illinois endorsement sought.

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

17 (2.5) Have completed an internship, as defined by
18 rule.

19 (3) (Blank).

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

1 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
2 English learners.

3 (4.5) (Blank).

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

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

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

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

19 (2) Have 2 years of full-time experience providing
20 special education services.

21 (3) Have successfully completed all examination
22 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

23 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~
24 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~
25 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~
26 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

1 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised
2 test for a particular content area is implemented,
3 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned
4 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the
5 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with
6 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23
7 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
8 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
9 English learners.

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

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

23 (2) Have successfully completed an internship in
24 school business management or have 2 years of experience
25 as a school business administrator.

26 (3) Have successfully met all State examination

1 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.
2 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~
3 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~
4 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~
5 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

6 (4) (Blank). ~~Have completed modules aligned to~~
7 ~~standards concerning methods of instruction of the~~
8 ~~exceptional child, methods of reading and reading in the~~
9 ~~content area, and instructional strategies for English~~
10 ~~learners.~~

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

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

15 (105 ILCS 5/21B-47 new)

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

17 (a) There is established the Paraprofessional Teacher
18 Pathway Program. The Paraprofessional Teacher Pathway Program
19 may be offered by a recognized institution approved to offer
20 educator preparation programs by the State Board of Education,
21 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and
22 Licensure Board. The Program shall provide an expedited
23 pathway for paraprofessionals to earn a Professional Educator
24 License in a specific content area, including, but not limited
25 to, elementary education or special education. The Program

1 shall create a partnership with the institution and other
2 entities, as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.

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

4 (1) The Program shall include a program of study with
5 coursework in instructional planning, instructional
6 strategies, including special education, reading, and
7 English language learning, classroom management, and the
8 assessment of students and use of data to drive
9 instruction.

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

12 (3) The Program shall include student teaching or an
13 equivalent experience.

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

16 (1) The individual holds a valid Educator License with
17 Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement
18 or a valid paraprofessional approval.

19 (2) The individual is employed as a paraprofessional
20 providing service to one or more students within the
21 licensure content area sought, such as elementary
22 education or special education.

23 (3) The individual has worked at least 2 years as a
24 paraprofessional.

25 (4) The individual has completed at least 60 semester
26 hours of coursework from a regionally accredited

1 institution of higher education.

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

5 (105 ILCS 5/21B-105)

6 Sec. 21B-105. Granting of recognition; regional
7 accreditation; definitions.

8 (a) "Recognized", as used in this Article in connection
9 with the word "school" or "institution", means such college,
10 university, or for-profit or not-for-profit entity that meets
11 requirements set by the State Board of Education, in
12 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
13 Board. Application for recognition of the school or
14 institution as an educator preparation institution must be
15 made to the State Board of Education. The State Board of
16 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
17 and Licensure Board, shall set the criteria by which the
18 school or institution is to be judged and, through the
19 secretary of the State Board, arrange for an official
20 inspection and shall grant recognition of such school or
21 institution as may meet the required standards. If the
22 standards include requirements with regard to education in
23 acquiring skills in working with culturally distinctive
24 students, as defined by the State Board of Education, then the
25 rules of the State Board of Education shall include the

1 criteria used to evaluate compliance with this requirement. No
2 school or institution may make assignments of student teachers
3 or teachers for practice teaching so as to promote segregation
4 on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national
5 origin.

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

8 All recommendations or entitlements for educator licensure
9 shall be made by a recognized institution operating a program
10 of preparation for the license that is approved by the State
11 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
12 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education,
13 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and
14 Licensure Board, shall have the power to define a major or
15 minor when used as a basis for recognition and licensure
16 purposes.

17 (b) "Regionally accredited", or "accredited", as used in
18 this Article in connection with a university or institution,
19 means an institution of higher education accredited by the
20 North Central Association or other comparable regional
21 accrediting association.

22 (c) An institution of higher education approved to offer
23 educator preparation programs in this State may, upon the
24 request of a public community college in this State, enter
25 into a partnership agreement with the community college to
26 offer an approved educator preparation program leading to

1 educator licensure for individuals who already hold a
2 bachelor's degree. The partnership must be approved by the
3 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
4 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

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