

SB3913



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3913

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. David Koehler

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-25

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. In a provision regarding endorsements on Professional Educator Licenses, provides for a special education endorsement in the area of deaf-hard of hearing with sign proficiency.

LRB104 20723 JDS 34226 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 21B-25 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-25)

7 Sec. 21B-25. Endorsement on licenses. All licenses issued
8 under paragraph (1) of Section 21B-20 of this Code shall be
9 specifically endorsed by the State Board of Education for each
10 content area, school support area, and administrative area for
11 which the holder of the license is qualified. Recognized
12 institutions approved to offer educator preparation programs
13 shall be trained to add endorsements to licenses issued to
14 applicants who meet all of the requirements for the
15 endorsement or endorsements, including passing any required
16 tests. The State Superintendent of Education shall randomly
17 audit institutions to ensure that all rules and standards are
18 being followed for entitlement or when endorsements are being
19 recommended.

20 (1) The State Board of Education, in consultation with
21 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall
22 establish, by rule, the grade level and subject area
23 endorsements to be added to the Professional Educator

1 License. These rules shall outline the requirements for
2 obtaining each endorsement.

3 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content
4 area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
6 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the
7 requirements for the following endorsements:

8 (A) (Blank).

9 (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement
10 shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of
11 any holder who qualifies by having all of the
12 following:

13 (i) Successful completion of a principal
14 preparation program approved in accordance with
15 Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable
16 rules.

17 (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or 4
18 total years of working in the capacity of school
19 support personnel in an Illinois public school or
20 nonpublic school recognized by the State Board of
21 Education, in a school under the supervision of
22 the Department of Corrections, or in an
23 out-of-state public school or out-of-state
24 nonpublic school meeting out-of-state recognition
25 standards comparable to those approved by the
26 State Superintendent of Education; however, the

1 State Board of Education, in consultation with the
2 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
3 shall allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of
4 experience based on meeting standards set forth in
5 such rules, including without limitation a review
6 of performance evaluations or other evidence of
7 demonstrated qualifications.

8 (iii) A master's degree or higher from a
9 regionally accredited college or university.

10 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A
11 chief school business official endorsement shall be
12 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
13 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or
14 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience
15 in school business management or 2 years of
16 university-approved practical experience, and a
17 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a
18 program approved by the State Board of Education for
19 the preparation of school business administrators and
20 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief
21 school business official endorsement may also be
22 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
23 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in
24 business administration, finance, accounting, or
25 public administration and who completes an additional
26 6 semester hours of internship in school business

1 management from a regionally accredited institution of
2 higher education and passes the applicable State
3 tests. This endorsement shall be required for any
4 individual employed as a chief school business
5 official.

6 (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent
7 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional
8 Educator License of any holder who has completed a
9 program approved by the State Board of Education for
10 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had
11 at least 2 years of experience employed full-time in a
12 general administrative position or as a full-time
13 principal, director of special education, or chief
14 school business official in the public schools or in a
15 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief
16 administrator is required to have the licensure
17 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this
18 State and where a majority of the teachers are
19 required to have the licensure necessary to be
20 instructors in a public school in this State, and has
21 passed the required State tests; or of any holder who
22 has completed a program that is not an
23 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an
24 Illinois institution of higher education and that has
25 recognition standards comparable to those approved by
26 the State Superintendent of Education and holds the

1 general administrative, principal, or chief school
2 business official endorsement and who has had 2 years
3 of experience as a principal, director of special
4 education, or chief school business official while
5 holding a valid educator license or certificate
6 comparable in validity and educational and experience
7 requirements and has passed the appropriate State
8 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The
9 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to
10 serve only as a superintendent or assistant
11 superintendent.

12 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the
13 policy of this State to improve the quality of
14 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway
15 for teachers interested in serving in leadership
16 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of
17 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
18 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher
19 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons
20 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of
21 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader
22 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for
23 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may
24 qualify to serve in such positions as department
25 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction
26 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by

1 the district. The endorsement shall be available to
2 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator
3 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a
4 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have
5 completed a program of study that has been approved by
6 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
7 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and
8 (iv) have successfully demonstrated competencies as
9 defined by rule.

10 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in
11 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement
12 may evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of
13 this Code, provided that the individual has completed
14 the evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of
15 this Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate
16 personnel under the respective school district's
17 collective bargaining agreement.

18 The State Board of Education, in consultation with
19 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
20 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish
21 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program
22 and to specify the positions for which this
23 endorsement shall be required.

24 (F) Special education endorsement. A special
25 education endorsement in one or more areas shall be
26 affixed to a Professional Educator License for any

1 individual that meets those requirements established
2 by the State Board of Education in rules. Special
3 education endorsement areas shall include, without
4 limitation, the following:

5 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;

6 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;

7 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;

8 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;

9 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing;

10 (vi) Deaf-Hard of Hearing with Sign
11 Proficiency;

12 (vii) ~~(vi)~~ Early Childhood Special Education;

13 and

14 (viii) ~~(vii)~~ Director of Special Education.

15 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,
16 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
17 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may
18 add additional areas of special education by rule.

19 (G) School support personnel endorsement. School
20 support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but
21 are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and
22 family therapist, school psychologist, school speech
23 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school
24 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who
25 are not teachers or administrators, but still require
26 licensure to work in an instructional support position

1 in a public or State-operated elementary school,
2 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement
3 with a governing body or board of control or a charter
4 school operating in compliance with the Charter
5 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement
6 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License
7 and shall meet all of the requirements established in
8 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).
9 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of
10 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other
11 Professional Educator License, including teacher
12 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

13 (Source: P.A. 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-267, eff. 8-22-17;
14 100-288, eff. 8-24-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-780, eff.
15 1-1-19; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220,
16 eff. 8-7-19.)