

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 21B-30 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

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

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required  
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
18 Section.

19 (c) Except as otherwise provided in this Article,  
20 applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or an  
21 Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass a  
22 test of basic skills before the license is issued, unless the  
23 endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage

1 of the test. All applicants completing Illinois-approved,  
2 teacher education or school service personnel preparation  
3 programs shall be required to pass the State Board of  
4 Education's recognized test of basic skills prior to starting  
5 their student teaching or starting the final semester of their  
6 internship. An institution of higher learning, as defined in  
7 the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, may not require an  
8 applicant to complete the State Board's recognized test of  
9 basic skills prior to the semester before student teaching or  
10 prior to the semester before starting the final semester of an  
11 internship. An individual who passes a test of basic skills  
12 does not need to do so again for subsequent endorsements or  
13 other educator licenses.

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

20 (e) (Blank).

21 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, beginning  
22 on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher  
23 preparation programs in this State and all candidates subject  
24 to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher  
25 performance assessment approved by the State Board of  
26 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation

1 and Licensure Board.

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

23 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
24 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
25 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
26 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code

1 in the English language and in the language of the transitional  
2 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

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

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

16 (j) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, in order to  
17 obtain a license under this Article, a student teacher  
18 candidate may not be required to videotape himself or herself  
19 or his or her students in a classroom setting.

20 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-657, eff. 7-28-16;  
21 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff.  
22 8-14-18; 100-932, eff. 8-17-18; revised 10-1-18.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.