

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 2-3.11d, 14-9.01, 21B-20, 21B-30, 21B-35, 21B-50, and 21B-55 as  
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.11d)

8 Sec. 2-3.11d. Data on tests required for teacher  
9 preparation and certification. Beginning with the effective  
10 date of this amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly, to  
11 collect and maintain all of the following data for each  
12 institution of higher education engaged in teacher preparation  
13 in this State:

14 (1) After July 1, 2025, the ~~The~~ number of individuals  
15 taking the test of basic skills under Section 21B-30 ~~21-1a~~  
16 ~~of this Code.~~

17 (2) After July 1, 2025, the ~~The~~ number of individuals  
18 passing the test of basic skills under Section 21B-30 ~~21-1a~~  
19 ~~of this Code.~~

20 (3) The total number of content area ~~subject matter~~  
21 tests attempted under Section 21B-30 ~~21-1a of this Code.~~

22 (4) The total number of content area ~~subject matter~~  
23 tests passed under Section 21B-30 ~~21-1a of this Code.~~

1 The data regarding content area ~~subject matter~~ tests shall be  
2 reported in sum, rather than by separately listing each  
3 subject, in order to better protect the identity of the  
4 test-takers.

5 ~~On or before August 1, 2007, the State Board of Education~~  
6 ~~shall file with the General Assembly and the Governor and shall~~  
7 ~~make available to the public a report listing the institutions~~  
8 ~~of higher education engaged in teacher preparation in this~~  
9 ~~State, along with the data listed in items (1) and (2) of this~~  
10 ~~Section pertinent to each institution.~~

11 On or before October 1, 2012 and every 3 years thereafter,  
12 the State Board of Education shall file with the General  
13 Assembly and the Governor and shall make available to the  
14 public a report listing the institutions of higher education  
15 engaged in teacher preparation in this State, along with the  
16 data listed in items (1) through (4) of this Section pertinent  
17 to each institution.

18 (Source: P.A. 96-1423, eff. 8-3-10.)

19 (105 ILCS 5/14-9.01) (from Ch. 122, par. 14-9.01)

20 Sec. 14-9.01. Qualifications of teachers, other  
21 professional personnel and necessary workers. No person shall  
22 be employed to teach any class or program authorized by this  
23 Article who does not hold a valid teacher's license as provided  
24 by law and unless he has had such special training as the State  
25 Board of Education may require. No special license or

1 endorsement to a special license issued under Article 21B  
2 ~~Section 21B-30 of this Code~~ shall be valid for teaching  
3 students with visual disabilities unless the person to whom the  
4 license or endorsement is issued has attained satisfactory  
5 performance on an examination that is designed to assess  
6 competency in Braille reading and writing skills according to  
7 standards that the State Board of Education may adopt. Evidence  
8 of successfully completing the examination of Braille reading  
9 and writing skills must be submitted to the State Board of  
10 Education prior to an applicant's taking of the content area  
11 test required under Section 21B-30 of this Code. In addition to  
12 other requirements, a candidate for a teaching license in the  
13 area of the deaf and hard of hearing granted by the Illinois  
14 State Board of Education for teaching deaf and hard of hearing  
15 students in grades pre-school through grade 12 must demonstrate  
16 a minimum proficiency in sign language as determined by the  
17 Illinois State Board of Education. All other professional  
18 personnel employed in any class, service, or program authorized  
19 by this Article shall hold such licenses and shall have had  
20 such special training as the State Board of Education may  
21 require; provided that in a school district organized under  
22 Article 34, the school district may employ speech and language  
23 pathologists who are licensed under the Illinois  
24 Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Practice Act but who do  
25 not hold a license issued under this Code if the district  
26 certifies that a chronic shortage of certified personnel

1 exists. Nothing contained in this Act prohibits the school  
2 board from employing necessary workers to assist the teacher  
3 with the special educational facilities, except that all such  
4 necessary workers must have had such training as the State  
5 Board of Education may require.

6 No later than January 1, 1993, the State Board of Education  
7 shall develop, in consultation with the Advisory Council on the  
8 Education of Children with Disabilities and the Advisory  
9 Council on Bilingual Education, rules governing the  
10 qualifications for certification of teachers and school  
11 service personnel providing services to English learners  
12 receiving special education and related services.

13 The employment of any teacher in a special education  
14 program provided for in Sections 14-1.01 to 14-14.01,  
15 inclusive, shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 24-11  
16 to 24-16, inclusive. Any teacher employed in a special  
17 education program, prior to the effective date of this  
18 amendatory Act of 1987, in which 2 or more districts  
19 participate shall enter upon contractual continued service in  
20 each of the participating districts subject to the provisions  
21 of Sections 24-11 to 24-16, inclusive.

22 (Source: P.A. 99-30, eff. 7-10-15.)

23 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

24 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of  
25 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,

1 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
2 required to be licensed must have one of the following  
3 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an educator  
4 license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute teaching  
5 license; or (iv) until June 30, 2023, a short-term substitute  
6 teaching license. References in law regarding individuals  
7 certified or certificated or required to be certified or  
8 certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall also include  
9 individuals licensed or required to be licensed under this  
10 Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June 30  
11 following one full year of the license being issued.

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

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

1 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other  
2 criteria established by rule of the State Board of  
3 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.  
4 All Professional Educator Licenses are valid until June 30  
5 immediately following 5 years of the license being issued.  
6 The Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with  
7 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is  
8 eligible to practice.

9 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
10 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
11 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
12 in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable  
13 content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

14 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
15 License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
16 that limits the license holder to one particular position  
17 or does not require completion of an approved educator  
18 program or both.

19 An individual with an Educator License with  
20 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
21 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
22 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

23 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
24 with the following endorsements:

25 (A) (Blank). ~~A A provisional educator endorsement~~  
26 ~~for a service member or a spouse of a service member is~~

1 ~~valid until June 30 immediately following 3 years of~~  
2 ~~the license being issued, provided that any remaining~~  
3 ~~testing and coursework deficiencies are met under this~~  
4 ~~Section. In this Section, "spouse of a service member"~~  
5 ~~means any person who, at the time of application under~~  
6 ~~this Section, is the spouse of an active duty member of~~  
7 ~~the United States Armed Forces or any reserve component~~  
8 ~~of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard~~  
9 ~~of any state, commonwealth, or territory of the United~~  
10 ~~States or the District of Columbia.~~

11 ~~Except as otherwise provided under this~~  
12 ~~subparagraph, a~~

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

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

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

25 (iii) Passed a ~~test of basic skills and content~~  
26 area test and, on and after July 1, 2025, a test of

1           basic skills, as required under Section 21B-30 of  
2           this Code.

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

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

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

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

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

25               (iv) Passed a ~~test of basic skills and~~ content  
26               area test and, on and after July 1, 2025, a test of

1           basic skills, as ~~tests~~ required under Section  
2           21B-30 of this Code.

3           The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in  
4           order to complete one full year of serving as a  
5           superintendent or assistant superintendent.

6           (D) (Blank).

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

15          The career and technical educator endorsement on  
16          an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
17          June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
18          endorsement being issued and may be renewed. For  
19          individuals who were issued the career and technical  
20          educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
21          Stipulations on or after January 1, 2015, the license  
22          may be renewed if the individual passes a ~~test of basic~~  
23          ~~skills or~~ test of work proficiency or, on and after  
24          July 1, 2025, a test of basic skills, as required under  
25          Section 21B-30 of this Code.

26          An individual who holds a valid career and

1 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
2 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's degree  
3 may substitute teach in career and technical education  
4 classrooms.

5 (F) Part-time provisional career and technical  
6 educator or provisional career and technical educator.  
7 A part-time provisional career and technical educator  
8 endorsement or a provisional career and technical  
9 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
10 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who has a  
11 minimum of 8,000 hours of work experience in the skill  
12 for which the applicant is seeking the endorsement. It  
13 is the responsibility of each employing school board  
14 and regional office of education to provide  
15 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent  
16 of Education at the time the application is submitted  
17 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional  
18 Educator License or an Educator License with  
19 Stipulations with a career and technical educator  
20 endorsement is available and that actual circumstances  
21 require such issuance.

22 The provisional career and technical educator  
23 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
24 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of  
25 the endorsement being issued and may be renewed for 5  
26 years. For individuals who were issued the provisional

1 career and technical educator endorsement on an  
2 Educator License with Stipulations on or after January  
3 1, 2015, the license may be renewed if the individual  
4 passes a ~~test of basic skills~~ or test of work  
5 proficiency or, on and after July 1, 2025, a test of  
6 basic skills, as required under Section 21B-30 of this  
7 Code.

8 A part-time provisional career and technical  
9 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
10 Stipulations may be issued for teaching no more than 2  
11 courses of study for grades 6 through 12. The part-time  
12 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
13 on 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 for 5 years  
16 if the individual makes application for renewal.

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

22 (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A  
23 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
24 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
25 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
26 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who

1 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all  
2 of the following requirements:

3 (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
4 writing ability in the language other than English  
5 in which transitional bilingual education is  
6 offered.

7 (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
8 communicate in English.

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

20 A transitional bilingual educator endorsement  
21 shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12, is  
22 valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of  
23 the endorsement being issued, and shall not be renewed.

24 Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator  
25 endorsement shall not be employed to replace any  
26 presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be

1 replaced for any reason.

2 (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
3 alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
4 other than English in the public schools, an individual  
5 who holds an Educator License with Stipulations may  
6 also apply for a language endorsement, provided that  
7 the applicant provides satisfactory evidence that he  
8 or she meets all of the following requirements:

9 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
10 endorsement.

11 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
12 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
13 by passing the applicable language content test  
14 required by the State Board of Education.

15 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from  
16 a regionally accredited institution of higher  
17 education or, for individuals educated in a  
18 country other than the United States, holds a  
19 degree from an institution of higher learning in a  
20 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 (iv) On and after July 1, 2025, has ~~has~~ passed  
26 a test of basic skills, as required under Section

1           21B-30 of this Code.

2           A language endorsement on an Educator License with  
3           Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through  
4           grade 12 for the same validity period as the  
5           individual's transitional bilingual educator  
6           endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations  
7           and shall not be renewed.

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

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

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

20                 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
21                 subject to be taught.

22                 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
23                 language.

24          A holder of a visiting international educator  
25          endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
26          shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education

1 programs in the language that was the medium of  
2 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,  
3 provided that he or she passes the English Language  
4 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing  
5 skills in English identified by the State Board of  
6 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
7 Preparation and Licensure Board.

8 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
9 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 3  
10 years and shall not be renewed.

11 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
12 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
13 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
14 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and  
15 either holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60  
16 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited  
17 institution of higher education or, on and after July  
18 1, 2025, has passed a test of basic skills required  
19 under Section 21B-30 of this Code. The  
20 paraprofessional educator endorsement is valid until  
21 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
22 endorsement being issued and may be renewed through  
23 application and payment of the appropriate fee, as  
24 required under Section 21B-40 of this Code. An  
25 individual who holds only a paraprofessional educator  
26 endorsement is not subject to additional requirements

1 in order to renew the endorsement.

2 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
3 business official endorsement on an Educator License  
4 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
5 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
6 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
7 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
8 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
9 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
10 State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
11 business administrators and by passage of the  
12 applicable State tests, including an ~~a test of basic~~  
13 ~~skills and~~ applicable content area test and, on and  
14 after July 1, 2025, a test of basic skills.

15 The chief school business official endorsement may  
16 also be affixed to the Educator License with  
17 Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
18 master's degree in business administration, finance,  
19 accounting, or public administration and who completes  
20 an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school  
21 business management from a regionally accredited  
22 institution of higher education and passes the  
23 applicable State tests, including an ~~a test of basic~~  
24 ~~skills and~~ applicable content area test and, on and  
25 after July 1, 2025, a test of basic skills. This  
26 endorsement shall be required for any individual

1 employed as a chief school business official.

2 The chief school business official endorsement on  
3 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
4 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
5 endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
6 license holder completes renewal requirements as  
7 required for individuals who hold a Professional  
8 Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
9 official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
10 rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
11 Education.

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

14 (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
15 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
16 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
17 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
18 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
19 and who has not successfully completed an  
20 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
21 who meets all of the following requirements:

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

23 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
24 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

25 (iii) Has passed ~~an a test of basic skills and~~  
26 applicable content area test and, on and after July

1           1, 2025, a test of basic skills, as required by  
2           Section 21B-30 of this Code.

3           (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
4           assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
5           minimum score on that assessment, as established  
6           by the State Board of Education in consultation  
7           with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
8           Board.

9           A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
10          Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
11          full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
12          be renewed.

13          (M) School support personnel intern. A school  
14          support personnel intern endorsement on an Educator  
15          License with Stipulations may be issued as specified by  
16          rule.

17          (N) Special education area. A special education  
18          area endorsement on an Educator License with  
19          Stipulations may be issued as defined and specified by  
20          rule.

21          (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
22          License may be issued to qualified applicants for  
23          substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
24          prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
25          Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
26          a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's degree

1 or higher from a regionally accredited institution of  
2 higher education.

3 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

4 Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute  
5 teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
6 has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
7 Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked,  
8 then that individual is not eligible to obtain a Substitute  
9 Teaching License.

10 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
11 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
12 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
13 contract because of an emergency situation, then a district  
14 may employ a substitute teacher for no longer than 30  
15 calendar days per each vacant position in the district if  
16 the district notifies the appropriate regional office of  
17 education within 5 business days after the employment of  
18 the substitute teacher in the emergency situation. An  
19 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
20 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unable to fulfill his or  
21 her contractual duties or (ii) teacher capacity needs of  
22 the district exceed previous indications, and the district  
23 is actively engaged in advertising to hire a fully licensed  
24 teacher for the vacant position.

25 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
26 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,

1 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
2 than 90 school days for any one licensed teacher under  
3 contract in the same school year. A substitute teacher who  
4 holds a Professional Educator License or Educator License  
5 with Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school  
6 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
7 same school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on  
8 the number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do  
9 not apply to any school district operating under Article 34  
10 of this Code.

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

15 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
16 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2023, the State Board of  
17 Education may issue a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
18 License. A Short-Term Substitute Teaching License may be  
19 issued to a qualified applicant for substitute teaching in  
20 all grades of the public schools, prekindergarten through  
21 grade 12. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not  
22 eligible for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term  
23 Substitute Teaching License must hold an associate's  
24 degree or have completed at least 60 credit hours from a  
25 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

26 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for

1 substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an  
2 individual has had his or her Professional Educator License  
3 or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or  
4 revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
5 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

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

8 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
9 License may teach no more than 5 consecutive days per  
10 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
11 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who is  
12 under contract, a school district may not hire an  
13 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
14 License. An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute  
15 Teaching License must complete the training program under  
16 Section 10-20.67 or 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to  
17 teach at a public school. This paragraph (4) is inoperative  
18 on and after July 1, 2023.

19 (Source: P.A. 99-35, eff. 1-1-16; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-143,  
20 eff. 7-27-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; 100-8,  
21 eff. 7-1-17; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-288, eff. 8-24-17;  
22 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-821, eff. 9-3-18; 100-863, eff.  
23 8-14-18; revised 10-1-18.)

24 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

25 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

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

2 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
3 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
4 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required  
5 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
6 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
7 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
8 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
9 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
10 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
11 Section.

12 (c) On and after July 1, 2025, except ~~Except~~ as otherwise  
13 provided in this Article, applicants seeking a Professional  
14 Educator License or an Educator License with Stipulations shall  
15 be required to pass a test of basic skills before the license  
16 is issued, unless the endorsement the individual is seeking  
17 does not require passage of the test. All applicants completing  
18 Illinois-approved, teacher education or school service  
19 personnel preparation programs shall be required to pass the  
20 State Board of Education's recognized test of basic skills  
21 prior to starting their student teaching or starting the final  
22 semester of their internship. An institution of higher  
23 learning, as defined in the Higher Education Student Assistance  
24 Act, may not require an applicant to complete the State Board's  
25 recognized test of basic skills prior to the semester before  
26 student teaching or prior to the semester before starting the

1 final semester of an internship. An individual who passes a  
2 test of basic skills does not need to do so again for  
3 subsequent endorsements or other educator licenses.

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

10 (e) (Blank).

11 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, beginning  
12 on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher  
13 preparation programs in this State and all candidates subject  
14 to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher  
15 performance assessment approved by the State Board of  
16 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
17 and Licensure Board.

18 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and  
19 the teacher performance assessment shall be the tests that from  
20 time to time are designated by the State Board of Education, in  
21 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
22 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing  
23 organization or tests designed by the State Board of Education,  
24 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and  
25 Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a test of basic  
26 skills shall include reading, language arts, and mathematics.

1 The test of content area knowledge shall assess content  
2 knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must be  
3 designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person taking  
4 the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race, color,  
5 national origin, or other factors unrelated to the person's  
6 ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score required  
7 to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of  
8 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
9 and Licensure Board. On or before July 1, 2025, the State Board  
10 must reevaluate the method it uses to score a content area  
11 knowledge test and may adopt rules to make any changes to those  
12 methods. The tests shall be administered not fewer than 3 times  
13 a year at such time and place as may be designated by the State  
14 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
15 Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

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

25 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
26 testing requirements under this Section shall include without

1 limitation provisions governing test selection, test  
2 validation and determination of a passing score,  
3 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
4 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
5 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
6 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop such  
7 rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to year  
8 in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

9 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-657, eff. 7-28-16;  
10 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff.  
11 8-14-18; 100-932, eff. 8-17-18; revised 10-1-18.)

12 (105 ILCS 5/21B-35)

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

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

20 (1) the applicant must:

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

1 content area credentials from another state; and

2 (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally  
3 accredited institution of higher education; or

4 (2) the applicant must:

5 (A) have completed a state-approved program for  
6 the licensure area sought, including coursework  
7 concerning methods of instruction of the exceptional  
8 child, methods of reading and reading in the content  
9 area, and instructional strategies for English  
10 learners;

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

13 (C) have successfully met all Illinois examination  
14 requirements, except that:

15 (i) on and after July 1, 2025, an applicant who  
16 has successfully completed a test of basic skills,  
17 as defined by rules, at the time of initial  
18 licensure in another state is not required to  
19 complete a test of basic skills;

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

24 (iii) an applicant for a teaching endorsement  
25 who has successfully completed an evidence-based  
26 assessment of teacher effectiveness, as defined by

1 rules, at the time of initial licensure in another  
2 state is not required to complete an  
3 evidence-based assessment of teacher  
4 effectiveness; and

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

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

14 (1) Have completed a comparable education program in  
15 another country.

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

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

20 (4) Have completed coursework aligned to standards  
21 concerning methods of instruction of the exceptional  
22 child, methods of reading and reading in the content area,  
23 and instructional strategies for English learners.

24 (5) (Blank).

25 (6) (Blank).

26 (7) Have successfully met all State licensure

1 examination requirements. On and after July 1, 2025,  
2 applicants ~~Applicants~~ who have successfully completed a  
3 test of basic skills, as defined by rules, at the time of  
4 initial licensure in another country shall not be required  
5 to complete a test of basic skills. Applicants who have  
6 successfully completed a test of content, as defined by  
7 rules, at the time of initial licensure in another country  
8 shall not be required to complete a test of content.  
9 Applicants for a teaching endorsement who have  
10 successfully completed an evidence-based assessment of  
11 teacher effectiveness, as defined by rules, at the time of  
12 initial licensure in another country shall not be required  
13 to complete an evidence-based assessment of teacher  
14 effectiveness.

15 (8) Have completed student teaching or an equivalent  
16 experience.

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

1 subject matter credentials from another state, or must meet all  
2 of the following requirements:

3 (1) Have completed an educator preparation program  
4 approved by another state or comparable educator program in  
5 another country leading to the receipt of a license or  
6 certificate for the Illinois endorsement sought.

7 (2) Have successfully met all State licensure  
8 examination requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of  
9 this Code. On and after July 1, 2025, applicants ~~Applicants~~  
10 who have successfully completed a test of basic skills, as  
11 defined by rules, at the time of initial licensure in  
12 another state or country shall not be required to complete  
13 a test of basic skills. Applicants who have successfully  
14 completed a test of content, as defined by rules, at the  
15 time of initial licensure in another state or country shall  
16 not be required to complete a test of content.

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

18 (3) (Blank).

19 (4) Have completed coursework aligned to standards  
20 concerning methods of instruction of the exceptional  
21 child, methods of reading and reading in the content area,  
22 and instructional strategies for English learners.

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

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

26 (b-7) All applicants who have not been entitled by an

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

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

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

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

20 (4) Have completed coursework aligned to standards  
21 concerning methods of instruction of the exceptional  
22 child, methods of reading and reading in the content area,  
23 and instructional strategies for English learners.

24 (b-10) All applicants who have not been entitled by an  
25 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois  
26 institution of higher education applying for a Professional

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

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

11 (2) Have successfully completed an internship in  
12 school business management or have 2 years of experience as  
13 a school business administrator.

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

20 (4) Have completed modules aligned to standards  
21 concerning methods of instruction of the exceptional  
22 child, methods of reading and reading in the content area,  
23 and instructional strategies for English learners.

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

1 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; 100-13,  
2 eff. 7-1-17; 100-584, eff. 4-6-18; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18.)

3 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

4 Sec. 21B-50. Alternative educator licensure program.

5 (a) There is established an alternative educator licensure  
6 program, to be known as the Alternative Educator Licensure  
7 Program for Teachers.

8 (b) The Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
9 Teachers may be offered by a recognized institution approved to  
10 offer educator preparation programs by the State Board of  
11 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
12 and Licensure Board.

13 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

14 (1) A course of study that at a minimum includes  
15 instructional planning; instructional strategies,  
16 including special education, reading, and English language  
17 learning; classroom management; and the assessment of  
18 students and use of data to drive instruction.

19 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's  
20 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a  
21 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must  
22 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an  
23 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to  
24 enter the residency and must complete additional program  
25 requirements that address required State and national

1 standards, pass the assessment of professional teaching  
2 before entering the second residency year, as required  
3 under phase (3) of this subsection (b), and be recommended  
4 by the principal or qualified equivalent of a principal, as  
5 required under subsection (d) of this Section, and the  
6 program coordinator to continue with the second year of the  
7 residency.

8 (3) A second year of residency, which shall include the  
9 candidate's assignment to a full-time teaching position  
10 for one school year. The candidate must be assigned an  
11 experienced teacher to act as a mentor and coach the  
12 candidate through the second year of residency.

13 (4) A comprehensive assessment of the candidate's  
14 teaching effectiveness, as evaluated by the principal or  
15 qualified equivalent of a principal, as required under  
16 subsection (d) of this Section, and the program  
17 coordinator, at the end of the second year of residency. If  
18 there is disagreement between the 2 evaluators about the  
19 candidate's teaching effectiveness, the candidate may  
20 complete one additional year of residency teaching under a  
21 professional development plan developed by the principal  
22 or qualified equivalent and the preparation program. At the  
23 completion of the third year, a candidate must have  
24 positive evaluations and a recommendation for full  
25 licensure from both the principal or qualified equivalent  
26 and the program coordinator or no Professional Educator

1 License shall be issued.

2 Successful completion of the program shall be deemed to  
3 satisfy any other practice or student teaching and content  
4 matter requirements established by law.

5 (c) An alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
6 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 2 years of  
7 teaching in the public schools, including without limitation a  
8 preschool educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code  
9 or charter school, or in a State-recognized nonpublic school in  
10 which the chief administrator is required to have the licensure  
11 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this State  
12 and in which a majority of the teachers are required to have  
13 the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public school in  
14 this State, but may be renewed for a third year if needed to  
15 complete the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
16 Teachers. The endorsement shall be issued only once to an  
17 individual who meets all of the following requirements:

18 (1) Has graduated from a regionally accredited college  
19 or university with a bachelor's degree or higher.

20 (2) Has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or  
21 greater on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on another scale.

22 (3) Has completed a major in the content area if  
23 seeking a middle or secondary level endorsement or, if  
24 seeking an early childhood, elementary, or special  
25 education endorsement, has completed a major in the content  
26 area of reading, English/language arts, mathematics, or

1           one of the sciences. If the individual does not have a  
2           major in a content area for any level of teaching, he or  
3           she must submit transcripts to the State Board of Education  
4           to be reviewed for equivalency.

5           (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection  
6           (b) of this Section.

7           (5) Has passed a ~~test of basic skills and~~ content area  
8           test required for the specific endorsement and, on and  
9           after July 1, 2025, a test of basic skills for admission  
10          into the program, as required under Section 21B-30 of this  
11          Code.

12          A candidate possessing the alternative provisional  
13          educator endorsement may receive a salary, benefits, and any  
14          other terms of employment offered to teachers in the school who  
15          are members of an exclusive bargaining representative, if any,  
16          but a school is not required to provide these benefits during  
17          the years of residency if the candidate is serving only as a  
18          co-teacher. If the candidate is serving as the teacher of  
19          record, the candidate must receive a salary, benefits, and any  
20          other terms of employment. Residency experiences must not be  
21          counted towards tenure.

22          (d) The recognized institution offering the Alternative  
23          Educator Licensure Program for Teachers must partner with a  
24          school district, including without limitation a preschool  
25          educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code or  
26          charter school, or a State-recognized, nonpublic school in this

1 State in which the chief administrator is required to have the  
2 licensure necessary to be a principal in a public school in  
3 this State and in which a majority of the teachers are required  
4 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public  
5 school in this State. A recognized institution that partners  
6 with a public school district administering a preschool  
7 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code must  
8 require a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates in the  
9 program. A recognized institution that partners with an  
10 eligible entity administering a preschool educational program  
11 under Section 2-3.71 of this Code and that is not a public  
12 school district must require a principal or qualified  
13 equivalent of a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates  
14 in the program. The program presented for approval by the State  
15 Board of Education must demonstrate the supports that are to be  
16 provided to assist the provisional teacher during the 2-year  
17 residency period. These supports must provide additional  
18 contact hours with mentors during the first year of residency.

19 (e) Upon completion of the 4 phases outlined in subsection  
20 (b) of this Section and all assessments required under Section  
21 21B-30 of this Code, an individual shall receive a Professional  
22 Educator License.

23 (f) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
24 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
25 rules as may be necessary to establish and implement the  
26 Alternative Educator Licensure Program for Teachers.

1 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18;  
2 100-822, eff. 1-1-19.)

3 (105 ILCS 5/21B-55)

4 Sec. 21B-55. Alternative route to superintendent  
5 endorsement.

6 (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
7 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may approve  
8 programs designed to provide an alternative route to  
9 superintendent endorsement on a Professional Educator License.

10 (b) Entities offering an alternative route to  
11 superintendent endorsement program must have the program  
12 approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation with  
13 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

14 (c) All programs approved under this Section shall be  
15 comprised of the following 3 phases:

16 (1) A course of study offered on an intensive basis in  
17 education management, governance, organization, and  
18 instructional and district planning.

19 (2) The person's assignment to a full-time position for  
20 one school year as a superintendent.

21 (3) A comprehensive assessment of the person's  
22 performance by school officials and a recommendation to the  
23 State Board of Education that the person be issued a  
24 superintendent endorsement on a Professional Educator  
25 License.

1 (d) In order to serve as a superintendent under phase (2)  
2 of subsection (c) of this Section, an individual must be issued  
3 an alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on an  
4 Educator License with Stipulations, to be valid for only one  
5 year of serving as a superintendent. In order to receive the  
6 provisional alternative superintendent endorsement under this  
7 Section, an individual must meet all of the following  
8 requirements:

9 (1) Have graduated from a regionally accredited  
10 college or university with a minimum of a master's degree  
11 in a management field.

12 (2) Have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
13 in a management level position other than education.

14 (3) Have successfully completed phase (1) of  
15 subsection (c) of this Section.

16 (4) Have passed a ~~test of basic skills and a~~ content  
17 area test and, on and after July 1, 2025, a test of basic  
18 skills for admission into the program, as required by  
19 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

20 (e) Successful completion of an alternative route to  
21 superintendent endorsement program shall be deemed to satisfy  
22 any other supervisory, administrative, or management  
23 experience requirements established by law, and, once  
24 completed, an individual shall be eligible for a superintendent  
25 endorsement on a Professional Educator License.

26 (f) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the

1 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
2 rules as may be needed to establish and implement these  
3 alternative route to superintendent endorsement programs.

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

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.