



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4257

Introduced 1/5/2022, by Rep. Tony McCombie - Thomas M. Bennett

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-45

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that for any 5-year renewal cycle that includes the 2021-2022 school year, each professional educator licensee shall complete a total of 100 hours of professional development during the 5-year renewal cycle in order to renew the license (rather than being required to complete a total of 120 hours). For the 2021-2022 school year only, provides that a licensee with an administrative endorsement who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day is not required to complete an Illinois Administrators' Academy course (rather than being required to complete one course). Effective immediately.

LRB102 20917 CMG 29806 b

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-45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

7 Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

8 (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License
9 are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as
10 specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this
11 Code.

12 Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall
13 meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section,
14 unless otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds
15 a license endorsed in more than one area that has different
16 renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal
17 requirements for the position for which he or she spends the
18 majority of his or her time working.

19 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
20 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
21 year. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if
22 a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the
23 State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon
4 (i) payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State
5 Board of Education or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by
6 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
7 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
8 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's
9 endorsement areas. Any and all back fees, including without
10 limitation registration fees owed from the time of expiration
11 of the license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid
12 and kept in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this
13 Code concerning an institute fund and the provisions in
14 Article 21B of this Code concerning fees and requirements for
15 registration. Licenses not registered in accordance with
16 Section 21B-40 of this Code shall lapse after a period of 6
17 months from the expiration of the last year of registration or
18 on January 1 of the fiscal year following initial issuance of
19 the license. An unregistered license is invalid after
20 September 1 for employment and performance of services in an
21 Illinois public or State-operated school or cooperative and in
22 a charter school. Any license or endorsement may be
23 voluntarily surrendered by the license holder. A voluntarily
24 surrendered license shall be treated as a revoked license. An
25 Educator License with Stipulations with only a
26 paraprofessional endorsement does not lapse.

1 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
2 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
3 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
4 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
5 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
6 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
7 this Code, per fiscal year.

8 (c-5) All licenses issued by the State Board of Education
9 under this Article that expire on June 30, 2020 and have not
10 been renewed by the end of the 2020 renewal period shall be
11 extended for one year and shall expire on June 30, 2021.

12 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
13 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
14 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
15 professional development plan each year. The plan shall
16 address one or more of the endorsements that are required of
17 his or her educator position if the licensee is employed and
18 performing services in an Illinois public or State-operated
19 school or cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a
20 charter school, the plan shall address that endorsement or
21 those endorsements most closely related to his or her educator
22 position. Licensees employed and performing services in any
23 other Illinois schools may participate in the renewal
24 requirements by adhering to the same process.

25 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the
26 licensee's professional development activities shall align

1 with one or more of the following criteria:

2 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
3 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
4 discovery, and application as they relate to student
5 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

6 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
7 performance;

8 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
9 growth or district improvement;

10 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

11 (5) higher education coursework.

12 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
13 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
14 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into
15 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
16 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
17 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
18 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
19 activities:

20 (1) For any 5-year renewal cycle that does not include
21 the 2021-2022 school year, each ~~Each~~ licensee shall
22 complete a total of 120 hours of professional development
23 per 5-year renewal cycle in order to renew the license,
24 except as otherwise provided in this Section. For any
25 5-year renewal cycle that includes the 2021-2022 school
26 year, each licensee shall complete a total of 100 hours of

1 professional development during the 5-year renewal cycle
2 in order to renew the license, except as otherwise
3 provided in this Section.

4 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
5 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not
6 working in a position requiring such endorsement is not
7 required to complete Illinois Administrators' Academy
8 courses, as described in Article 2 of this Code. Such
9 licensees must complete one Illinois Administrators'
10 Academy course within one year after returning to a
11 position that requires the administrative endorsement.

12 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
13 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
14 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
15 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
16 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
17 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
18 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
19 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.
20 However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, a licensee
21 under this paragraph (3) is not required to complete an
22 Illinois Administrators' Academy course.

23 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
24 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
25 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
26 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order

1 to renew the license.

2 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
3 require educator licensure or working in a position for
4 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
5 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
6 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
7 license.

8 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
9 from a State of Illinois retirement system shall notify
10 the State Board of Education using ELIS, and the license
11 shall be maintained in retired status. For any renewal
12 cycle in which a licensee retires during the renewal
13 cycle, the licensee must complete professional development
14 activities on a prorated basis depending on the number of
15 years during the renewal cycle the educator held an active
16 license. If a licensee retires during a renewal cycle, the
17 licensee must notify the State Board of Education using
18 ELIS that the licensee wishes to maintain the license in
19 retired status and must show proof of completion of
20 professional development activities on a prorated basis
21 for all years of that renewal cycle for which the license
22 was active. An individual with a license in retired status
23 shall not be required to complete professional development
24 activities or pay registration fees until returning to a
25 position that requires educator licensure. Upon returning
26 to work in a position that requires the Professional

1 Educator License, the licensee shall immediately pay a
2 registration fee and complete renewal requirements for
3 that year. A license in retired status cannot lapse.
4 Beginning on January 6, 2017 (the effective date of Public
5 Act 99-920) through December 31, 2017, any licensee who
6 has retired and whose license has lapsed for failure to
7 renew as provided in this Section may reinstate that
8 license and maintain it in retired status upon providing
9 proof to the State Board of Education using ELIS that the
10 licensee is retired and is not working in a position that
11 requires a Professional Educator License.

12 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional
13 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
14 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
15 minimum professional development hours required in this
16 Section prior to September 1 of that year. Professional
17 development hours used to fulfill the minimum required
18 hours for a renewal cycle may be used for only one renewal
19 cycle. For any fiscal year or renewal cycle in which an
20 Illinois Administrators' Academy course was required but
21 not completed, the licensee shall complete any missed
22 Illinois Administrators' Academy courses prior to
23 September 1 of that year. The licensee may complete all
24 deficient hours and Illinois Administrators' Academy
25 courses while continuing to work in a position that
26 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

1 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the
2 professional development renewal requirements set forth in
3 this Section at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is
4 ineligible to register his or her license and may submit
5 an appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for
6 reinstatement of the license.

7 (9) If professional development opportunities were
8 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
9 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
10 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
11 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
12 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
13 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
14 during the extension period.

15 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
16 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act
17 98-610) shall commence the annual renewal process with the
18 first scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013
19 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610).

20 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
21 subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required
22 number of professional development hours during a renewal
23 cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned
24 from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the
25 renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must
26 be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois

1 Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those
2 courses may not be carried over.

3 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to
4 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

5 (f-5) The State Board of Education shall conduct random
6 audits of licensees to verify a licensee's fulfillment of the
7 professional development hours required under this Section.
8 Upon completion of a random audit, if it is determined by the
9 State Board of Education that the licensee did not complete
10 the required number of professional development hours or did
11 not provide sufficient proof of completion, the licensee shall
12 be notified that his or her license has lapsed. A license that
13 has lapsed under this subsection may be reinstated as provided
14 in subsection (b).

15 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved
16 to provide professional development activities for the renewal
17 of Professional Educator Licenses:

18 (1) The State Board of Education.

19 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
20 service centers.

21 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
22 the following groups that are approved by the State
23 Superintendent of Education:

24 (A) school administrators;

25 (B) principals;

26 (C) school business officials;

1 (D) teachers, including special education
2 teachers;

3 (E) school boards;

4 (F) school districts;

5 (G) parents; and

6 (H) school service personnel.

7 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
8 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
9 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
10 to the Public Community College Act.

11 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
12 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
13 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
14 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
15 education or special education services.

16 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
17 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has
18 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
19 of Education to provide professional development services
20 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
21 districts, teachers, or administrators.

22 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
23 commissions.

24 (8) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
25 Disposition of Property Act.

26 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this

1 Section shall make available professional development
2 opportunities that satisfy at least one of the following:

3 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
4 district leaders who guide continuous professional
5 development;

6 (2) improve the learning of students;

7 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose
8 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

9 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

10 (5) provide educators with research-based
11 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
12 rigorous academic standards;

13 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
14 types of classroom assessments;

15 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
16 intended goals;

17 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
18 collaborate;

19 (9) prepare educators to apply research to decision
20 making; or

21 (10) provide educators with training on inclusive
22 practices in the classroom that examines instructional and
23 behavioral strategies that improve academic and
24 social-emotional outcomes for all students, with or
25 without disabilities, in a general education setting.

26 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this

1 Section shall do the following:

2 (1) align professional development activities to the
3 State-approved national standards for professional
4 learning;

5 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
6 Illinois licensure renewal;

7 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
8 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
9 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
10 learning or school improvement;

11 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
12 activities;

13 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
14 completion of activities;

15 (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number
16 (IEIN) for each educator during each professional
17 development activity; and

18 (7) beginning on July 1, 2019, register annually with
19 the State Board of Education prior to offering any
20 professional development opportunities in the current
21 fiscal year.

22 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
23 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school
24 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of
25 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of
26 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for

1 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The
2 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of
3 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this
4 Section or administrative rules are not being met.

5 (1) (Blank).

6 (2) Approved providers shall comply with the
7 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by
8 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education
9 demonstrating how the professional development activities
10 impacted one or more of the following:

11 (A) educator and student growth in regards to
12 content knowledge or skills, or both;

13 (B) educator and student social and emotional
14 growth; or

15 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
16 plans.

17 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
18 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
19 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
20 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider
21 has met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
22 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
23 in rules.

24 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
25 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
26 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional

1 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed
2 and entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
3 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
4 debit card.

5 (l) Any professional educator licensee endorsed for school
6 support personnel who is employed and performing services in
7 Illinois public schools and who holds an active and current
8 professional license issued by the Department of Financial and
9 Professional Regulation or a national certification board, as
10 approved by the State Board of Education, related to the
11 endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License shall
12 be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
13 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
14 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
15 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who
16 does not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial
17 and Professional Regulation shall complete professional
18 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
19 Educator License provided for in this Section.

20 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and
21 Licensure Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of
22 notice from the State Superintendent of Education that a
23 license will not be renewed based upon failure to complete the
24 requirements of this Section. A licensee may appeal that
25 decision to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
26 in a manner prescribed by rule.

1 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
2 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
3 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
4 State Board of Education.

5 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
6 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
7 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
8 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
9 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
10 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
11 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
12 consist of the following:

13 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
14 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
15 if applicable;

16 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
17 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
18 statement of assurance for renewal; and

19 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
20 nonrenewal of the license.

21 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
22 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding
23 license renewal by certified mail, return receipt
24 requested, no later than 30 days after reaching a
25 decision. Upon receipt of notification of renewal, the
26 licensee, using ELIS, shall pay the applicable

1 registration fee for the next cycle using a form of credit
2 or debit card.

3 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be
4 necessary to implement this Section.

5 (Source: P.A. 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-339, eff. 8-25-17;
6 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-85, eff.
7 1-1-20; 101-531, eff. 8-23-19; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
9 becoming law.