



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5057

Introduced 2/8/2024, by Rep. Sue Scherer

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-30

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education shall establish a content area test for applicants seeking a State license to teach in any of grades kindergarten through 8. Provides that the test shall include foundational teaching skills and methods that are developmentally and educationally appropriate for students in grades kindergarten through 8. Provides that, in addition to this test, the State Board of Education shall establish specialty content area tests in mathematics, music, and science that are optional for applicants seeking an endorsement in mathematics, music, or science.

LRB103 38074 RJT 68206 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-30 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

8 (a) (Blank).

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

19 (c) (Blank).

20 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a
21 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an
22 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a
23 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the

1 endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other
2 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section
3 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

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 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable
11 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date
12 of Public Act 103-402) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd~~
13 ~~General Assembly~~ to develop a plan to transition the test of
14 content area knowledge in the endorsement area of elementary
15 education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to a content
16 area test that contains testing elements that cover
17 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,
18 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate
19 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable
20 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State
21 Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on
22 the language and literacy portion of the test on the
23 recommended cut-score determined in the formal
24 standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a
25 particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The
26 State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of

1 candidates in each preparation program who take the test and
2 the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

3 (e) (Blank).

4 (e-5) The State Board of Education shall establish a
5 content area test for applicants seeking a State license to
6 teach in any of grades kindergarten through 8. The test shall
7 include foundational teaching skills and methods that are
8 developmentally and educationally appropriate for students in
9 grades kindergarten through 8. In addition to this test, the
10 State Board of Education shall establish specialty content
11 area tests in mathematics, music, and science that are
12 optional for applicants seeking an endorsement in mathematics,
13 music, or science.

14 (f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of
15 Public Act 103-488) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd General~~
16 ~~Assembly~~ through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a
17 teacher preparation program in this State or candidate subject
18 to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required to pass a teacher
19 performance assessment. Except as otherwise provided in this
20 Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until August 4, 2023
21 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) ~~this amendatory Act~~
22 ~~of the 103rd General Assembly~~ and beginning again on September
23 1, 2025, all candidates completing teacher preparation
24 programs in this State and all candidates subject to Section
25 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher performance
26 assessment approved by the State Board of Education, in

1 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
2 Board. A candidate may not be required to submit test
3 materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation, an
4 individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is
5 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district
6 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after
7 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a
8 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher
9 performance assessment under this subsection.

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

19 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
20 President of the Senate.

21 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
22 Minority Leader of the Senate.

23 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
24 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

25 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,
26 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of

1 Representatives.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (12) One member representing a suburban school
24 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of
25 Education.

26 (13) One member from a statewide organization

1 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of
2 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
3 of Education.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (19) One member representing a statewide policy
24 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students
25 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of
26 Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 Members of the Task Force shall serve without
25 compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of
26 the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent

1 meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,
2 who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of
3 Education. The State Board of Education shall provide
4 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

5 On or before August 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report on
6 its work, including recommendations on a teacher performance
7 assessment system in this State, to the State Board of
8 Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is
9 dissolved upon submission of this report.

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

1 place as may be designated by the State Board of Education, in
2 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
3 Board.

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

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

14 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
15 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without
16 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test
17 validation, and determination of a passing score,
18 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
19 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
20 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
21 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
22 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to
23 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.
24 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;
25 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; revised 9-1-23.)