

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

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

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-25)

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

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

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

3 (1.5) By June 1, 2025, the State Board of Education,  
4 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and  
5 Licensure Board, shall establish, by rule, a Montessori  
6 education endorsement to be added to a Professional  
7 Educator License. The rules adopted under this paragraph  
8 (1.5) shall outline the requirements for obtaining the  
9 endorsement. The changes added to this Section by this  
10 amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly are  
11 inoperative on and after January 1, 2026.

12 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content  
13 area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of  
14 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
15 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the  
16 requirements for the following endorsements:

17 (A) (Blank).

18 (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement  
19 shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of  
20 any holder who qualifies by having all of the  
21 following:

22 (i) Successful completion of a principal  
23 preparation program approved in accordance with  
24 Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable  
25 rules.

26 (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or 4

1 total years of working in the capacity of school  
2 support personnel in an Illinois public school or  
3 nonpublic school recognized by the State Board of  
4 Education, in a school under the supervision of  
5 the Department of Corrections, or in an  
6 out-of-state public school or out-of-state  
7 nonpublic school meeting out-of-state recognition  
8 standards comparable to those approved by the  
9 State Superintendent of Education; however, the  
10 State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
11 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
12 shall allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of  
13 experience based on meeting standards set forth in  
14 such rules, including without limitation a review  
15 of performance evaluations or other evidence of  
16 demonstrated qualifications.

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

19 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A  
20 chief school business official endorsement shall be  
21 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
22 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or  
23 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience  
24 in school business management or 2 years of  
25 university-approved practical experience, and a  
26 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a

1 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
2 the preparation of school business administrators and  
3 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief  
4 school business official endorsement may also be  
5 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
6 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in  
7 business administration, finance, accounting, or  
8 public administration and who completes an additional  
9 6 semester hours of internship in school business  
10 management from a regionally accredited institution of  
11 higher education and passes the applicable State  
12 tests. This endorsement shall be required for any  
13 individual employed as a chief school business  
14 official.

15 (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent  
16 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional  
17 Educator License of any holder who has completed a  
18 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
19 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had  
20 at least 2 years of experience employed full-time in a  
21 general administrative position or as a full-time  
22 principal, director of special education, or chief  
23 school business official in the public schools or in a  
24 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief  
25 administrator is required to have the licensure  
26 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this

1 State and where a majority of the teachers are  
2 required to have the licensure necessary to be  
3 instructors in a public school in this State, and has  
4 passed the required State tests; or of any holder who  
5 has completed a program that is not an  
6 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an  
7 Illinois institution of higher education and that has  
8 recognition standards comparable to those approved by  
9 the State Superintendent of Education and holds the  
10 general administrative, principal, or chief school  
11 business official endorsement and who has had 2 years  
12 of experience as a principal, director of special  
13 education, or chief school business official while  
14 holding a valid educator license or certificate  
15 comparable in validity and educational and experience  
16 requirements and has passed the appropriate State  
17 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The  
18 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to  
19 serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
20 superintendent.

21 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the  
22 policy of this State to improve the quality of  
23 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway  
24 for teachers interested in serving in leadership  
25 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of  
26 Education, in consultation with the State Educator

1 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher  
2 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons  
3 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of  
4 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader  
5 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for  
6 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may  
7 qualify to serve in such positions as department  
8 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction  
9 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by  
10 the district. The endorsement shall be available to  
11 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator  
12 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a  
13 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have  
14 completed a program of study that has been approved by  
15 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
16 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and  
17 (iv) have successfully demonstrated competencies as  
18 defined by rule.

19 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in  
20 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement  
21 may evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of  
22 this Code, provided that the individual has completed  
23 the evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of  
24 this Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate  
25 personnel under the respective school district's  
26 collective bargaining agreement.

1           The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
2           the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
3           may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish  
4           and implement the teacher leader endorsement program  
5           and to specify the positions for which this  
6           endorsement shall be required.

7           (F) Special education endorsement. A special  
8           education endorsement in one or more areas shall be  
9           affixed to a Professional Educator License for any  
10          individual that meets those requirements established  
11          by the State Board of Education in rules. Special  
12          education endorsement areas shall include without  
13          limitation the following:

- 14                   (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;
- 15                   (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;
- 16                   (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;
- 17                   (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;
- 18                   (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing;
- 19                   (vi) Early Childhood Special Education; and
- 20                   (vii) Director of Special Education.

21          Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,  
22          the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
23          State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may  
24          add additional areas of special education by rule.

25          (G) School support personnel endorsement. School  
26          support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but

1 are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and  
2 family therapist, school psychologist, school speech  
3 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school  
4 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who  
5 are not teachers or administrators, but still require  
6 licensure to work in an instructional support position  
7 in a public or State-operated elementary school,  
8 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement  
9 with a governing body or board of control or a charter  
10 school operating in compliance with the Charter  
11 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement  
12 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License  
13 and shall meet all of the requirements established in  
14 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).  
15 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of  
16 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other  
17 Professional Educator License, including teacher  
18 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

19 (Source: P.A. 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-267, eff. 8-22-17;  
20 100-288, eff. 8-24-17; 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-780, eff.  
21 1-1-19; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220,  
22 eff. 8-7-19.)