

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 21B-30 and 21B-35 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

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

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be required  
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
18 Section. No score on a test required under this Section, other  
19 than a test of basic skills, shall be more than 5 years old at  
20 the time that an individual makes application for an educator  
21 license or endorsement.

22 (c) Applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or  
23 an Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass

1 a test of basic skills, unless the endorsement the individual  
2 is seeking does not require passage of the test.

3 No candidate may be fully admitted into an educator  
4 preparation program at a recognized Illinois institution until  
5 he or she has passed a test of basic skills. An individual who  
6 passes a test of basic skills does not need to do so again for  
7 subsequent endorsements or other educator licenses.

8 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
9 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
10 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
11 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall  
12 be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record,  
13 ~~or begin an internship or residency required for licensure~~  
14 until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

15 (e) All applicants seeking a State license endorsed in a  
16 teaching field shall pass the assessment of professional  
17 teaching (APT). Passage of the APT is required for completion  
18 of an approved Illinois educator preparation program.

19 (f) Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates  
20 completing teacher preparation programs in this State are  
21 required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher  
22 effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in  
23 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
24 Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher  
25 preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher  
26 performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

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

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

1 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

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

5 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
6 testing requirements under this Section shall include  
7 provisions governing test selection, test validation and  
8 determination of a passing score, administration of the tests,  
9 frequency of administration, applicant fees, frequency of  
10 applicants taking the tests, the years for which a score is  
11 valid, and appropriate special accommodations. The State Board  
12 of Education shall develop such rules as may be needed to  
13 ensure uniformity from year to year in the level of difficulty  
14 for each form of an assessment.

15 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

16 (105 ILCS 5/21B-35)

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

19 (a) All out-of-state applicants applying for a  
20 Professional Educator License must meet all of the following  
21 requirements:

22 (1) Have completed a comparable state-approved  
23 education program, as defined by the State Superintendent  
24 of Education.

25 (2) Have a degree from a regionally accredited

1 institution of higher education and the degreed major or a  
2 constructed major must directly correspond to the license  
3 or endorsement sought.

4 (3) Except for school service personnel prepared by  
5 out-of-state programs, have ~~Have~~ completed a minimum of one  
6 course in the methods of instruction of the exceptional  
7 child. School service personnel prepared by out-of-state  
8 programs shall meet the same requirements concerning  
9 courses in the methods of instruction of the exceptional  
10 child as in-State candidates in school service personnel  
11 areas, as defined by rules.

12 (4) Except for school service personnel prepared by  
13 out-of-state programs, have ~~Have~~ completed a minimum of 6  
14 semester hours of coursework in methods of reading and  
15 reading in the content area. School service personnel  
16 prepared by out-of-state programs shall meet the same  
17 requirements concerning coursework in methods of reading  
18 and reading in the content area as in-State candidates in  
19 school service personnel areas, as defined by rules.

20 (5) Except for school service personnel prepared by  
21 out-of-state programs, have ~~Have~~ completed a minimum of one  
22 course in instructional strategies for English language  
23 learners. School service personnel prepared by  
24 out-of-state programs shall meet the same requirements  
25 concerning courses in instructional strategies for English  
26 language learners as in-State candidates in school service

1           personnel areas, as defined by rules.

2           (6) Have successfully met all Illinois examination  
3 requirements.

4           (7) Have completed student teaching or an equivalent  
5 experience.

6           If one or more of the criteria in subsection (a) of this  
7 Section are not met, then out-of-state applicants who hold a  
8 valid, comparable certificate from another state and have  
9 passed a test of basic skills and content area test, as  
10 required by Section 21B-20 of this Code, may qualify for a  
11 provisional educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
12 Stipulations, in accordance with Section 21B-20 of this Code,  
13 with the exception that an individual shall not serve as a  
14 principal or assistant principal while holding the provisional  
15 educator endorsement.

16           (b) In order to receive a Professional Educator License,  
17 applicants trained in another country must meet all of the  
18 following requirements:

19           (1) Have completed a comparable education program in  
20 another country.

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

23           (3) Hold a degreed major that must directly correspond  
24 to the license or endorsement sought.

25           (4) Have completed a minimum of one course in the  
26 methods of instruction of the exceptional child.

1           (5) Have completed a minimum of 6 semester hours of  
2           coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content  
3           area.

4           (6) Have completed a minimum of one course in  
5           instructional strategies for English language learners.

6           (7) Have successfully met all State licensure  
7           examination requirements.

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

10          If one or more of these criteria are not met, then an  
11          applicant trained in another country who has passed a test of  
12          basic skills and content area test, as required by Section  
13          21B-20 of this Code, may qualify for a provisional educator  
14          endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations, with the  
15          exception that an individual shall not serve as a principal or  
16          assistant principal while holding the provisional educator  
17          endorsement.

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

21          (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

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