

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 endorsement  
15 or endorsements, including passing any required tests. The  
16 State Superintendent of Education shall randomly audit  
17 institutions to ensure that all rules and standards are being  
18 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 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content  
4 area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of  
5 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
6 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the  
7 requirements for the following endorsements:

8 (A) General administrative endorsement. A general  
9 administrative endorsement shall be added to a  
10 Professional Educator License, provided that an  
11 approved program has been completed. An individual  
12 holding a general administrative endorsement may work  
13 only as a principal or assistant principal or in a  
14 related or similar position, as determined by the State  
15 Superintendent of Education, in consultation with the  
16 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

17 Beginning on September 1, 2014, the general  
18 administrative endorsement shall no longer be issued  
19 except to individuals who completed all coursework  
20 requirements for the receipt of the general  
21 administrative endorsement by September 1, 2014, who  
22 have completed all testing requirements by June 30,  
23 2016, and who apply for the endorsement on or before  
24 June 30, 2016. Individuals who hold a valid and  
25 registered administrative certificate with a general  
26 administrative endorsement issued under Section 21-7.1

1 of this Code or a Professional Educator License with a  
2 general administrative endorsement issued prior to  
3 September 1, 2014 and who have served for at least one  
4 full year during the 5 years prior in a position  
5 requiring a general administrative endorsement shall,  
6 upon request to the State Board of Education and  
7 through July 1, 2015, have their respective general  
8 administrative endorsement converted to a principal  
9 endorsement on the Professional Educator License.  
10 Candidates shall not be admitted to an approved general  
11 administrative preparation program after September 1,  
12 2012.

13 All other individuals holding a valid and  
14 registered administrative certificate with a general  
15 administrative endorsement issued pursuant to Section  
16 21-7.1 of this Code or a general administrative  
17 endorsement on a Professional Educator License issued  
18 prior to September 1, 2014 shall have the general  
19 administrative endorsement converted to a principal  
20 endorsement on a Professional Educator License upon  
21 request to the State Board of Education and by  
22 completing one of the following pathways:

23 (i) Passage of the State principal assessment  
24 developed by the State Board of Education.

25 (ii) Through July 1, 2019, completion of an  
26 Illinois Educators' Academy course designated by

1 the State Superintendent of Education.

2 (iii) Completion of a principal preparation  
3 program established and approved pursuant to  
4 Section 21B-60 of this Code and applicable rules.

5 Individuals who do not choose to convert the  
6 general administrative endorsement on the  
7 administrative certificate issued pursuant to Section  
8 21-7.1 of this Code or on the Professional Educator  
9 License shall continue to be able to serve in any  
10 position previously allowed under paragraph (2) of  
11 subsection (e) of Section 21-7.1 of this Code.

12 The general administrative endorsement on the  
13 Professional Educator License is available only to  
14 individuals who, prior to September 1, 2014, had such  
15 an endorsement on the administrative certificate  
16 issued pursuant to Section 21-7.1 of this Code or who  
17 already have a Professional Educator License and have  
18 completed a general administrative program and who do  
19 not choose to convert the general administrative  
20 endorsement to a principal endorsement pursuant to the  
21 options in this Section.

22 (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement  
23 shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of  
24 any holder who qualifies by having all of the  
25 following:

26 (i) Successful completion of a principal

1 preparation program approved in accordance with  
2 Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable  
3 rules.

4 (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or ~~7~~  
5 ~~until June 30, 2021,~~ 4 total years of working in  
6 the capacity of school support personnel in an  
7 Illinois public school or nonpublic school  
8 recognized by the State Board of Education or in an  
9 out-of-state public school or out-of-state  
10 nonpublic school meeting out-of-state recognition  
11 standards comparable to those approved by the  
12 State Superintendent of Education; however, the  
13 State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
14 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
15 shall allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of  
16 experience based on meeting standards set forth in  
17 such rules, including without limitation a review  
18 of performance evaluations or other evidence of  
19 demonstrated qualifications.

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

22 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A  
23 chief school business official endorsement shall be  
24 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
25 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or  
26 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience

1 in school business management or 2 years of  
2 university-approved practical experience, and a  
3 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a  
4 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
5 the preparation of school business administrators and  
6 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief  
7 school business official endorsement may also be  
8 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
9 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in  
10 business administration, finance, or accounting and  
11 who completes an additional 6 semester hours of  
12 internship in school business management from a  
13 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
14 and passes the applicable State tests. This  
15 endorsement shall be required for any individual  
16 employed as a chief school business official.

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

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

23 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the  
24 policy of this State to improve the quality of  
25 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway  
26 for teachers interested in serving in leadership

1 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of  
2 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
3 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher  
4 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons  
5 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of  
6 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader  
7 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for  
8 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may  
9 qualify to serve in such positions as department  
10 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction  
11 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by  
12 the district. The endorsement shall be available to  
13 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator  
14 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a  
15 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have  
16 completed a program of study that has been approved by  
17 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
18 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and  
19 (iv) have taken coursework in all of the following  
20 areas:

21 (I) Leadership.

22 (II) Designing professional development to  
23 meet teaching and learning needs.

24 (III) Building school culture that focuses on  
25 student learning.

26 (IV) Using assessments to improve student



1 learning and foster school improvement.

2 (V) Building collaboration with teachers and  
3 stakeholders.

4 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in  
5 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement may  
6 evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of this  
7 Code, provided that the individual has completed the  
8 evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of this  
9 Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate  
10 personnel under the respective school district's  
11 collective bargaining agreement.

12 The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
13 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
14 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish  
15 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program  
16 and to specify the positions for which this endorsement  
17 shall be required.

18 (F) Special education endorsement. A special  
19 education endorsement in one or more areas shall be  
20 affixed to a Professional Educator License for any  
21 individual that meets those requirements established  
22 by the State Board of Education in rules. Special  
23 education endorsement areas shall include without  
24 limitation the following:

25 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;

26 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;

1 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;

2 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;

3 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing; and

4 (vi) Early Childhood Special Education.

5 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,  
6 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
7 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may  
8 add additional areas of special education by rule.

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

1 Professional Educator License, including teacher  
2 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

3 Beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on April  
4 30, 2014, a person holding a Professional Educator  
5 License with a school speech and language pathologist  
6 (teaching) endorsement may exchange his or her school  
7 speech and language pathologist (teaching) endorsement  
8 for a school speech and language pathologist  
9 (non-teaching) endorsement through application to the  
10 State Board of Education. There shall be no cost for  
11 this exchange.

12 (Source: P.A. 98-413, eff. 8-16-13; 98-610, eff. 12-27-13;  
13 98-872, eff. 8-11-14; 98-917, eff. 8-15-14; 98-1147, eff.  
14 12-31-14; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-623, eff. 7-22-16.)

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
16 becoming law.