

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****HB2950**

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Laura Faver Dias

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

See Index

Amends the School Code. Allows, if an assessment is determined to be non-uniform, a provisional in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations to be issued to a candidate who has completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution of higher education and who has not successfully completed an applicable content area test but who: holds at least a bachelor's degree; has completed an approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution; has passed an evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness; and has attempted an applicable content area test that has been determined to be non-uniform and has not attempted any uniform content area tests. Provides that the process by which the State Board of Education evaluates content area tests shall be public information and shall be made available on the website of the State Board. Requires the State Board to evaluate each content area test after it has been administered for at least 10 months, but not more than 12 months, and shall determine that a content test is non-uniform. Provides that if a content test is determined to be non-uniform, the State Board shall: convene one or more committees to review the content, bias, and passing score requirements of that content test and recommend changes to improve uniformity; offer the most recent uniform content area test for the same license or endorsement as an option until the new assessment is determined to be uniform; provide an opportunity to attempt the most recent uniform content area test for the same license or endorsement to candidates who attempted but did not pass the most recent version of the content area test; and implement a process by which candidates who attempted but did not pass the content test may apply for provisional licensure. Provides that if the State Board finds that the content area test forms available as of January 1, 2025 are not uniform in the level of difficulty as compared to previous forms of those exams, any candidate for licensure who attempted any content area test in the form that was available as of January 1, 2025, and whose best scores in each subsection of the same content area exam, taken across multiple attempts on the same form of the exam, equal or exceed the passing score for that content area exam as of January 1, 2025, shall be determined to have passed that content area exam.

LRB104 08422 LNS 18474 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 Sections  
5           21B-20 and 21B-30 as follows:

6           (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

7           Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of  
8           Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,  
9           whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
10          required to be licensed must have one of the following  
11          licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an  
12          educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute  
13          teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2028, a short-term  
14          substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
15          individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
16          certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
17          also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
18          under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
19          30 following one full year of the license being issued.

20           The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
21          State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
22          rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for  
23          licenses and endorsements under this Section.

(1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i) have successfully completed an approved educator preparation program and are recommended for licensure by the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation program, (ii) have successfully completed the required testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have successfully completed coursework on the psychology of, the identification of, and the methods of instruction for the exceptional child, including, without limitation, children with learning disabilities, (iv) have successfully completed coursework in methods of reading and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other criteria established by rule of the State Board of Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License. All Professional Educator Licenses are valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the license being issued. The Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is eligible to practice. For an early childhood education endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher preparation program through placement in a setting with children from birth through grade 2, and the individual may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The student teaching experience must meet the requirements of and be approved by the individual's early childhood

1 teacher preparation program.

2 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
3 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
4 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
5 in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable  
6 content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

7 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
8 License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
9 that limits the license holder to one particular position  
10 or does not require completion of an approved educator  
11 program or both.

12 An individual with an Educator License with  
13 Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
14 any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
15 who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

16 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
17 with the following endorsements:

18 (A) (Blank).

19 (B) Alternative provisional educator. An  
20 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
21 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
22 applicant who, at the time of applying for the  
23 endorsement, has done all of the following:

24 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
25 college or university with a minimum of a  
26 bachelor's degree.

(ii) Successfully completed the first phase of the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

(iii) Passed a content area test, as required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

The alternative provisional educator endorsement is valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for a third year by an individual meeting the requirements set forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

(C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant superintendent in a school district's central office. This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has done all of the following:

(i) Graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with a minimum of a master's degree in a management field other than education.

(ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5 years in a management level position in a field other than education.

(iii) Successfully completed the first phase of an alternative route to superintendent

1 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
2 of this Code.

3 (iv) Passed a content area test required under  
4 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

5 The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in  
6 order to complete one full year of serving as a  
7 superintendent or assistant superintendent.

8 (D) (Blank).

9 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and  
10 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
11 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
12 has a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a  
13 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
14 or an accredited trade and technical institution and  
15 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of  
16 education in each area to be taught.

17 The career and technical educator endorsement on  
18 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
19 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
20 endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

21 An individual who holds a valid career and  
22 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
23 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's  
24 degree may substitute teach in career and technical  
25 education classrooms.

26 An individual who holds a valid career and

1                   technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
2                   with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
3                   privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
4                   Educator License.

5                   (F) (Blank).

6                   (G)    Transitional    bilingual    educator.    A  
7                   transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
8                   Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
9                   the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
10                  with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who  
11                  provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets  
12                  all of the following requirements:

13                  (i)    Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
14                  writing ability in the language other than English  
15                  in which transitional bilingual education is  
16                  offered.

17                  (ii)   Has    the   ability    to    successfully  
18                  communicate in English.

19                  (iii)   Either    possessed,    within    5    years  
20                  previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
21                  bilingual educator endorsement,    a    valid    and  
22                  comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
23                  authorization issued by a foreign country or holds  
24                  a    degree    from    an    institution    of    higher    learning    in  
25                  a    foreign    country    that    the    State    Educator  
26                  Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be

1                   the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
2                   regionally accredited institution of higher  
3                   learning in the United States.

4                   A transitional bilingual educator endorsement  
5                   shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12,  
6                   is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
7                   of the endorsement being issued, and shall not be  
8                   renewed.

9                   Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator  
10                  endorsement shall not be employed to replace any  
11                  presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be  
12                  replaced for any reason.

13                  (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
14                  alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
15                  other than English in the public schools, an  
16                  individual who holds an Educator License with  
17                  Stipulations may also apply for a language  
18                  endorsement, provided that the applicant provides  
19                  satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the  
20                  following requirements:

21                   (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
22                  endorsement.

23                   (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
24                  language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
25                  by passing the applicable language content test  
26                  required by the State Board of Education.

(iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution of higher education or, for individuals educated in a country other than the United States, holds a degree from an institution of higher learning in a foreign country that the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning in the United States.

(iv) (Blank).

A language endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through grade 12 for the same validity period as the individual's transitional bilingual educator endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations and shall not be renewed.

(I) Visiting international educator. A visiting international educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an individual who is being recruited by a particular school district that conducts formal recruitment programs outside of the United States to secure the services of qualified teachers and who meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a

bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

(ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the grade level for which he or she will be employed.

(iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the subject to be taught.

(iv) Has an adequate command of the English language.

A holder of a visiting international educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education programs in the language that was the medium of instruction in his or her teacher preparation program, provided that he or she passes the English Language Proficiency Examination or another test of writing skills in English identified by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

A visiting international educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5 years and shall not be renewed.

(J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and

(i) holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited

1 institution of higher education; (ii) has passed a  
2 paraprofessional competency test under subsection  
3 (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at least 18 years  
4 of age and will be using the Educator License with  
5 Stipulations exclusively for grades prekindergarten  
6 through grade 8, until the individual reaches the age  
7 of 19 years and otherwise meets the criteria for a  
8 paraprofessional educator endorsement pursuant to this  
9 subparagraph (J). The paraprofessional educator  
10 endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately  
11 following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and  
12 may be renewed through application and payment of the  
13 appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of  
14 this Code. An individual who holds only a  
15 paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject  
16 to additional requirements in order to renew the  
17 endorsement.

18 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
19 business official endorsement on an Educator License  
20 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
21 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
22 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
23 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
24 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
25 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
26 State Board of Education for the preparation of school

1                   business administrators and by passage of the  
2                   applicable State tests, including an applicable  
3                   content area test.

4                   The chief school business official endorsement may  
5                   also be affixed to the Educator License with  
6                   Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
7                   master's degree in business administration, finance,  
8                   accounting, or public administration and who completes  
9                   an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school  
10                  business management from a regionally accredited  
11                  institution of higher education and passes the  
12                  applicable State tests, including an applicable  
13                  content area test. This endorsement shall be required  
14                  for any individual employed as a chief school business  
15                  official.

16                  The chief school business official endorsement on  
17                  an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
18                  June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
19                  endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
20                  license holder completes renewal requirements as  
21                  required for individuals who hold a Professional  
22                  Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
23                  official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
24                  rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
25                  Education.

26                  The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules

1 necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

2 (L) **Provisional in-state educator.** A provisional  
3 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
4 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
5 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
6 program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
7 and who has successfully completed an  
8 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
9 who meets all of the following requirements:

10 (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

11 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
12 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

13 (iii) Has passed an applicable content area  
14 test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

15 (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based  
16 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
17 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
18 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
19 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
20 Board.

21 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
22 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
23 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
24 be renewed.

25 (M) Provisional in-state educator. If an  
26 assessment is determined to be non-uniform according

1           to subsection (i-5) of 21B-30, a provisional in-state  
2           educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
3           Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
4           completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
5           program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
6           and who has not successfully completed an applicable  
7           content area test but who meets all of the following  
8           requirements:

9            (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

10           (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
11           preparation program at an Illinois institution.

12           (iii) Has passed an evidence-based assessment  
13           of teacher effectiveness, as required by Section  
14           21B-30. If an evidence-based assessment of teacher  
15           effectiveness is not required by Section 21B-30 at  
16           the time a candidate applies for this provisional  
17           in-state educator endorsement on an Educator  
18           License with Stipulations, candidates shall not be  
19           eligible under this subsection.

20           (iv) Has attempted an applicable content area  
21           test that has been determined to be non-uniform  
22           per subsection (i-5) of 21B-30 and has not  
23           attempted any uniform content area tests.

24           A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
25           Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
26           full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not

1                   be renewed. (Blank).

2                   (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
3 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
4 may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

5                   (O) Provisional career and technical educator. A  
6 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
7 on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
8 to an applicant who has a minimum of 8,000 hours of  
9 work experience in the skill for which the applicant  
10 is seeking the endorsement. Each employing school  
11 board and regional office of education shall provide  
12 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent  
13 of Education at the time the application is submitted  
14 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional  
15 Educator License or an Educator License with  
16 Stipulations with a career and technical educator  
17 endorsement is available to teach and that actual  
18 circumstances require such issuance.

19                   A provisional career and technical educator  
20 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
21 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
22 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

23                   An individual who holds a provisional career and  
24 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
25 with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in  
26 career and technical education classrooms.

1                   An individual who holds a provisional career and  
2                   technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
3                   with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
4                   privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
5                   Educator License.

6                   (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
7                   License may be issued to qualified applicants for  
8                   substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
9                   prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
10                  Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
11                  a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's  
12                  degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution  
13                  of higher education or must be enrolled in an approved  
14                  educator preparation program in this State and have earned  
15                  at least 90 credit hours.

16                  Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

17                  Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute  
18                  teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
19                  has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
20                  Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked,  
21                  then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
22                  Substitute Teaching License.

23                  A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
24                  licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
25                  board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
26                  contract because of an emergency situation, then a

1       district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer  
2       than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the  
3       district if the district notifies the appropriate regional  
4       office of education within 5 business days after the  
5       employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant  
6       position. A district may continue to employ that same  
7       substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90  
8       calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever  
9       is greater, if, prior to the expiration of the  
10      30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a  
11      written request with the appropriate regional office of  
12      education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis  
13      that the position remains vacant and the district  
14      continues to actively seek qualified candidates and  
15      provides documentation that it has provided training  
16      specific to the position, including training on meeting  
17      the needs of students with disabilities and English  
18      learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be  
19      granted in writing by the regional office of education. An  
20      emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
21      has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to  
22      fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher  
23      capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications  
24      or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified  
25      candidates, and the district is actively engaged in  
26      advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the

1 vacant position.

2 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
3 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
4 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
5 than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year  
6 through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school  
7 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
8 same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a  
9 Professional Educator License or Educator License with  
10 Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days  
11 for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same  
12 school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the  
13 number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not  
14 apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of  
15 this Code.

16 A school district may not require an individual who  
17 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator  
18 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute  
19 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

20 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
21 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may  
22 apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a  
23 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term  
24 Substitute Teaching License may be issued to a qualified  
25 applicant for substitute teaching in all grades of the  
26 public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12.

1       Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible  
2       for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute  
3       Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have  
4       completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally  
5       accredited institution of higher education.

6       Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for  
7       substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an  
8       individual has had his or her Professional Educator  
9       License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or  
10       revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
11       Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

12       The provisions of Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this  
13       Code apply to short-term substitute teachers.

14       An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
15       License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per  
16       licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
17       absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who  
18       is under contract, a school district may not hire an  
19       individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
20       License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due  
21       to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
22       Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual  
23       holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must  
24       complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or  
25       34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public  
26       school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this

1           Section are valid for 5 years.

2           (Source: P.A. 102-711, eff. 1-1-23; 102-712, eff. 4-27-22;  
3           102-713, eff. 1-1-23; 102-717, eff. 4-29-22; 102-894, eff.  
4           5-20-22; 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;  
5           103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.  
6           7-1-24.)

7           (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

8           Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

9           (a) (Blank).

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

20           (c) (Blank).

21           (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a  
22           paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an  
23           applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a  
24           paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the  
25           endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other

1 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section  
2 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

3 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
4 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
5 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
6 shall be no exception to this requirement.

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

25 (e) (Blank).

26 (f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of

1       Public Act 103-488) through August 31, 2025, no candidate  
2       completing a teacher preparation program in this State or  
3       candidate subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required  
4       to pass a teacher performance assessment. Except as otherwise  
5       provided in this Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until  
6       August 4, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) and  
7       beginning again on September 1, 2025, all candidates  
8       completing teacher preparation programs in this State and all  
9       candidates subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required  
10      to pass a teacher performance assessment approved by the State  
11      Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
12      Preparation and Licensure Board. A candidate may not be  
13      required to submit test materials by video submission. Subject  
14      to appropriation, an individual who holds a Professional  
15      Educator License and is employed for a minimum of one school  
16      year by a school district designated as Tier 1 under Section  
17      18-8.15 may, after application to the State Board, receive  
18      from the State Board a refund for any costs associated with  
19      completing the teacher performance assessment under this  
20      subsection.

21                   (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is  
22        created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective  
23        teacher performance assessment systems for implementation  
24        across all educator preparation programs in this State, with  
25        the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and  
26        supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.

1 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,  
2 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force  
3 shall consist of all of the following members:

4 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
5 President of the Senate.

6 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
7 Minority Leader of the Senate.

8 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,  
9 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

10 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,  
11 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
12 Representatives.

13 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional  
14 teachers' organization, appointed by the State  
15 Superintendent of Education.

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

19 (7) One member from a statewide organization  
20 representing school principals, appointed by the State  
21 Superintendent of Education.

22 (8) One member from a statewide organization  
23 representing regional superintendents of schools,  
24 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

25 (9) One member from a statewide organization  
26 representing school administrators, appointed by the State

1                   Superintendent of Education.

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

5                   (11) One member of an association representing rural  
6                   and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent  
7                   of Education.

8                   (12) One member representing a suburban school  
9                   district, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
10                   Education.

11                   (13) One member from a statewide organization  
12                   representing school districts in the southern suburbs of  
13                   the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
14                   of Education.

15                   (14) One member from a statewide organization  
16                   representing large unit school districts, appointed by the  
17                   State Superintendent of Education.

18                   (15) One member from a statewide organization  
19                   representing school districts in the collar counties of  
20                   the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
21                   of Education.

22                   (16) Three members, each representing a different  
23                   public university in this State and each a current member  
24                   of the faculty of an approved educator preparation  
25                   program, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
26                   Education.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(23) One member representing a statewide organization that advocates for educational equity and racial justice

1       in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
2 Education.

3               (24) One member representing a statewide organization  
4       that represents school boards, appointed by the State  
5       Superintendent of Education.

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

9       Members of the Task Force shall serve without  
10      compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of  
11      the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent  
12      meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,  
13      who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of  
14      Education. The State Board of Education shall provide  
15      administrative and other support to the Task Force.

16       On or before October 31, 2024, the Task Force shall report  
17      on its work, including recommendations on a teacher  
18      performance assessment system in this State, to the State  
19      Board of Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is  
20      dissolved upon submission of this report.

21               (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher  
22      performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to  
23      time are designated by the State Board of Education, in  
24      consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
25      Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing  
26      organization or tests designed by the State Board of

1 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
2 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall  
3 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The  
4 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no  
5 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis  
6 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to  
7 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The  
8 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State  
9 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
10 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of  
11 Education's rules for scoring the content area knowledge test  
12 may include scoring and retaking of each test section  
13 separately and independently. The tests shall be administered  
14 not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be  
15 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
16 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

24 (g-5) The process by which the State Board of Education,  
25 or any entity designated by the State Board of Education,  
26 evaluates content area tests to determine content validity,

1       absence of bias, or scores required to pass shall be public  
2       information and shall be made available on the website of the  
3       State Board of Education, including, but not limited to:

4            (1) details related to the process by which members  
5            are selected to form a committee or group to make such  
6            determinations;

7            (2) the names, titles, and organizational affiliations  
8            of the members of any such group;

9            (3) the agendas and minutes of each meeting of any  
10          such group, except that the complete text of individual  
11          test questions shall not be public information if they  
12          remain in the bank of questions to be used in active  
13          content area tests; however, minutes of the discussion of  
14          the content of those individual questions shall be public  
15          to the maximum extent practicable that does not provide  
16          candidates an advantage in correctly answering those  
17          questions; and

18           (4) any determinations, recommendations, or decisions  
19          made by any such group regarding tests or individual test  
20          items.

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

24        (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
25        testing requirements under this Section shall include, without  
26        limitation, provisions governing test selection, test

1 validation, and determination of a passing score,  
2 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
3 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
4 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
5 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop  
6 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to  
7 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

8 (i-5) The State Board shall evaluate each content area  
9 test after it has been administered for at least 10 months, but  
10 not more than 12 months, and shall determine that a content  
11 test is non-uniform if, in the first fiscal year in which it is  
12 available:

13 (1) the overall percentage of candidates passing that  
14 form of the content area test is 10 or more percentage  
15 points lower than the percentage of candidates who passed  
16 the most recent uniform content area test required by the  
17 State Board for the same license or endorsement in either  
18 of the 2 preceding fiscal years; or

19 (2) the percentage of candidates, in any demographic  
20 subgroup comprising at least 10 total test attempts,  
21 passing that form of the content area test is 15 or more  
22 percentage points lower than the percentage of candidates  
23 in that demographic subgroup who passed the previous form  
24 of that content area test in either of the 2 preceding  
25 fiscal years for which that demographic subgroup comprised  
26 at least 10 total test attempts.

1       An assessment first introduced prior to January 1, 2017  
2       shall be considered uniform, and an assessment introduced on  
3       or after January 1, 2017 that does not meet the criteria in  
4       paragraph (1) or (2) shall be considered uniform.

5       If a content test is determined to be non-uniform as  
6       described in this Section, the State Board of Education shall:

7           (1) convene, or require any applicable vendors to  
8       convene, one or more committees to review the content,  
9       bias, and passing score requirements of that content test  
10       and recommend changes to improve uniformity, subject to  
11       the transparency guidelines in subsection (g-5);

12       (2) offer, or require any applicable vendors to offer,  
13       the most recent uniform content area test required by the  
14       State Board for the same license or endorsement as an  
15       option until the new assessment is determined to be  
16       uniform;

17       (3) provide, or require any applicable vendors to  
18       provide, an opportunity to attempt the most recent uniform  
19       content area test required by the State Board for the same  
20       license or endorsement to candidates who attempted but did  
21       not pass the most recent version of the content area test,  
22       at no cost to these candidates; and

23       (4) implement a process by which candidates who  
24       attempted but did not pass the content test may apply for  
25       provisional licensure as described in paragraph (M) of  
26       subsection (2) of Section 21-20B.

1        (i-10) If the State Board finds that the content area test  
2        forms available as of January 1, 2025 are not uniform in the  
3        level of difficulty as compared to previous forms of those  
4        exams, any candidate for licensure who attempted any content  
5        area test in the form that was available as of January 1, 2025,  
6        and whose best scores in each subsection of the same content  
7        area exam, taken across multiple attempts on the same form of  
8        the exam, equal or exceed the passing score for that content  
9        area exam as of January 1, 2025, shall be determined to have  
10        passed that content area exam.

11        This subsection is inoperable when each of the content  
12        area test forms available as of January 1, 2025 have been  
13        replaced by a new and uniform version of that content area  
14        test.

15        (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;  
16        103-488, eff. 8-4-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-780, eff.  
17        8-2-24; 103-811, eff. 8-9-24; 103-846, eff. 8-9-24.)

1

INDEX

2

Statutes amended in order of appearance

3

105 ILCS 5/21B-20

4

105 ILCS 5/21B-30