



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4713

by Rep. Carol Ammons

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-25

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall create an introductory content area endorsement for computer science that allows individuals with a Professional Educator License to teach introductory computer science courses in grades 5 through 12. Provides that the endorsement shall require no more than 8 credit hours of graduate-level preparation that includes instruction in introductory computer science concepts and computer science pedagogy. Allows an individual with a Professional Educator License seeking the endorsement to substitute a State Board-approved, one-week, professional development program in introductory high school computer science education for 4 credit hours of the graduate-level preparation in introductory computer science concepts. Provides that the one-week, professional development program may count as 4 credit hours of the graduate-level preparation. Allows an individual with an Educator License with Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement who completes the 8 credit hours of graduate-level preparation to count those credit hours toward completion of the requirements for a Professional Educator License with a computer science endorsement.

LRB104 17749 LNS 31180 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-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) The State Board of Education, in consultation  
4 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
5 shall create an introductory content area endorsement for  
6 computer science that allows individuals with a  
7 Professional Educator License to teach introductory  
8 computer science courses, as defined by the State Board,  
9 in grades 5 through 12. This endorsement shall require no  
10 more than 8 credit hours of graduate-level preparation  
11 that includes instruction in introductory computer science  
12 concepts and computer science pedagogy.

13 (A) An individual with a Professional Educator  
14 License seeking the introductory content area  
15 endorsement for computer science may substitute a  
16 State Board-approved, one-week, professional  
17 development program in introductory high school  
18 computer science education for 4 credit hours of the  
19 graduate-level preparation in introductory computer  
20 science concepts required in this paragraph (1.5). The  
21 one-week, professional development program may count  
22 as 4 credit hours of the graduate-level preparation.

23 (B) An individual with an Educator License with  
24 Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator  
25 endorsement who completes the 8 credit hours of  
26 graduate-level preparation required in this paragraph

1           (1.5) may count those credit hours toward completion  
2           of the requirements for a Professional Educator  
3           License with a computer science endorsement.

4           (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content  
5           area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of  
6           Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
7           Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the  
8           requirements for the following endorsements:

9                   (A) (Blank).

10                   (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement  
11                   shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of  
12                   any holder who qualifies by having all of the  
13                   following:

14                           (i) Successful completion of a principal  
15                           preparation program approved in accordance with  
16                           Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable  
17                           rules.

18                           (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or 4  
19                           total years of working in the capacity of school  
20                           support personnel in an Illinois public school or  
21                           nonpublic school recognized by the State Board of  
22                           Education, in a school under the supervision of  
23                           the Department of Corrections, or in an  
24                           out-of-state public school or out-of-state  
25                           nonpublic school meeting out-of-state recognition  
26                           standards comparable to those approved by the

1 State Superintendent of Education; however, the  
2 State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
3 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
4 shall allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of  
5 experience based on meeting standards set forth in  
6 such rules, including without limitation a review  
7 of performance evaluations or other evidence of  
8 demonstrated qualifications.

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

11 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A  
12 chief school business official endorsement shall be  
13 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
14 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or  
15 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience  
16 in school business management or 2 years of  
17 university-approved practical experience, and a  
18 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a  
19 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
20 the preparation of school business administrators and  
21 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief  
22 school business official endorsement may also be  
23 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
24 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in  
25 business administration, finance, accounting, or  
26 public administration and who completes an additional

1           6 semester hours of internship in school business  
2 management from a regionally accredited institution of  
3 higher education and passes the applicable State  
4 tests. This endorsement shall be required for any  
5 individual employed as a chief school business  
6 official.

7           (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent  
8 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional  
9 Educator License of any holder who has completed a  
10 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
11 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had  
12 at least 2 years of experience employed full-time in a  
13 general administrative position or as a full-time  
14 principal, director of special education, or chief  
15 school business official in the public schools or in a  
16 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief  
17 administrator is required to have the licensure  
18 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this  
19 State and where a majority of the teachers are  
20 required to have the licensure necessary to be  
21 instructors in a public school in this State, and has  
22 passed the required State tests; or of any holder who  
23 has completed a program that is not an  
24 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an  
25 Illinois institution of higher education and that has  
26 recognition standards comparable to those approved by

1 the State Superintendent of Education and holds the  
2 general administrative, principal, or chief school  
3 business official endorsement and who has had 2 years  
4 of experience as a principal, director of special  
5 education, or chief school business official while  
6 holding a valid educator license or certificate  
7 comparable in validity and educational and experience  
8 requirements and has passed the appropriate State  
9 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The  
10 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to  
11 serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
12 superintendent.

13 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the  
14 policy of this State to improve the quality of  
15 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway  
16 for teachers interested in serving in leadership  
17 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of  
18 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
19 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher  
20 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons  
21 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of  
22 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader  
23 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for  
24 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may  
25 qualify to serve in such positions as department  
26 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction

1 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by  
2 the district. The endorsement shall be available to  
3 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator  
4 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a  
5 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have  
6 completed a program of study that has been approved by  
7 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
8 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and  
9 (iv) have successfully demonstrated competencies as  
10 defined by rule.

11 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in  
12 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement  
13 may evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of  
14 this Code, provided that the individual has completed  
15 the evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of  
16 this Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate  
17 personnel under the respective school district's  
18 collective bargaining agreement.

19 The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
20 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
21 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish  
22 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program  
23 and to specify the positions for which this  
24 endorsement shall be required.

25 (F) Special education endorsement. A special  
26 education endorsement in one or more areas shall be

1 affixed to a Professional Educator License for any  
2 individual that meets those requirements established  
3 by the State Board of Education in rules. Special  
4 education endorsement areas shall include without  
5 limitation the following:

- 6 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;
- 7 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;
- 8 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;
- 9 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;
- 10 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing;
- 11 (vi) Early Childhood Special Education; and
- 12 (vii) Director of Special Education.

13 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,  
14 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
15 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may  
16 add additional areas of special education by rule.

17 (G) School support personnel endorsement. School  
18 support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but  
19 are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and  
20 family therapist, school psychologist, school speech  
21 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school  
22 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who  
23 are not teachers or administrators, but still require  
24 licensure to work in an instructional support position  
25 in a public or State-operated elementary school,  
26 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement

1 with a governing body or board of control or a charter  
2 school operating in compliance with the Charter  
3 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement  
4 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License  
5 and shall meet all of the requirements established in  
6 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).  
7 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of  
8 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other  
9 Professional Educator License, including teacher  
10 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

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