

SB1947



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1947

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Sen. Meg Loughran Cappel

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Adds 5 administrative or faculty members of community colleges to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. For a Professional Educator License: provides that the requirements to successfully complete specified coursework are only required until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised test for a particular content area is implemented, whichever is later; and exempts persons seeking a school support personnel or chief school business official endorsement from the requirement that a person must successfully complete specified coursework. Requires, by July 1, 2027, the State Superintendent of Education to begin incorporating specified topics into revised examinations for individuals seeking a Professional Educator License endorsed in teaching or administration, excluding a chief school business official endorsement. Exempts, for educator licenses, applicants seeking a school support personnel endorsement who hold an active and valid professional license in the same subject matter as the endorsement sought from being required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. Creates the Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory Committee to aid in operationalizing and creating a pilot, State-developed, teacher performance assessment. Establishes the Paraprofessional to Teacher Pathway Program to provide an expedited pathway for paraprofessionals to earn a Professional Educator License in a specific content area. Sets forth the Program criteria, the requirements for individuals for entry into the Program, and the adoption of rules by the State Board of Education. Provides that an institution of higher education approved to offer educator preparation programs may enter into a partnership agreement with a community college to offer an approved educator preparation program leading to educator licensure for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree. Makes other changes.

LRB104 10291 LNS 20365 b

A BILL FOR

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-10, 21B-20, 21B-30, 21B-35, and 21B-105 and by adding
6 Sections 21B-32 and 21B-47 as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/21B-10)

8 Sec. 21B-10. State Educator Preparation and Licensure
9 Board.

10 (a) The State Teacher Certification Board, which had been
11 established under Section 21-13 of the School Code prior to
12 this amendatory Act of the 97th General Assembly, shall be
13 renamed the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.
14 References in law to the State Teacher Certification Board
15 shall mean the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.
16 The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board shall
17 consist of the State Superintendent of Education or a
18 representative appointed by him or her, who shall be
19 ex-officio chairperson, 5 administrative or faculty members of
20 public or private colleges or universities located in this
21 State, 5 administrative or faculty members of public community
22 colleges located in this State, 3 administrators and 10
23 classroom teachers employed in the public schools (5 of whom

1 must be members of and nominated by a statewide professional
2 teachers' organization and 5 of whom must be members of and
3 nominated by a different statewide professional teachers'
4 organization), and one regional superintendent of schools, all
5 of whom shall be appointed by the State Board of Education;
6 provided that at least one of the administrators and at least 3
7 of the classroom teachers so appointed must be employees of a
8 school district that is subject to the provisions of Article
9 34 of this Code. A statewide professional teachers'
10 organization and a different statewide professional teachers'
11 organization shall submit to the State Board of Education for
12 consideration at least 3 names of accomplished teachers for
13 every one vacancy or expiring term in a classroom teacher
14 position. The nominations submitted to the State Board of
15 Education under this Section to fill a vacancy or an expiring
16 term shall be advisory. Nomination for State Educator
17 Preparation and Licensure Board members must be submitted to
18 the State Board of Education within 30 days after the vacancy
19 or vacancies occur. Nominations to fill an expiring term must
20 be submitted to the State Superintendent of Education ~~State~~
21 ~~Board of Education~~ at least 30 days before the expiration of
22 that term. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this
23 Section, if a sufficient number of nominations are not
24 received by the State Superintendent of Education ~~State Board~~
25 ~~of Education~~ for a vacancy or expiring term within the 30-day
26 period, then the State Superintendent of Education ~~State Board~~

1 ~~of Education~~ may appoint any qualified person, in the same
2 manner as the original appointment, to fill the vacancy or
3 expiring term. The regular term of each member is 3 years, and
4 an individual may be appointed for no more than 2 consecutive
5 terms. The term of an appointed member of the State Educator
6 Preparation and Licensure Board shall expire on June 30 of his
7 or her final year.

8 The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board may
9 allow one member representing the Board of Higher Education
10 and one member representing the Illinois Community College
11 Board to serve as nonvoting, ex officio members on the Board.

12 (b) The State Board of Education shall appoint a secretary
13 of the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

14 (c) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
15 shall hold regular meetings at least quarterly and such other
16 special meetings as may be necessary.

17 (d) The necessary expenses of the State Educator
18 Preparation and Licensure Board shall be provided through the
19 State Board of Education. The State Board of Education, in
20 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
21 Board, may adopt such rules as may be necessary for the
22 administration of this Article.

23 (e) (Blank).

24 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18.)

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

14 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
15 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such
16 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for
17 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

18 (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)
19 have successfully completed an approved educator
20 preparation program and are recommended for licensure by
21 the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation
22 program, (ii) have successfully completed the required
23 testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) until
24 July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised test for a
25 particular content area is implemented, whichever is
26 later, have successfully completed coursework on the

1 psychology of, the identification of, and the methods of
2 instruction for the exceptional child, including, without
3 limitation, children with learning disabilities, (iv) have
4 successfully completed coursework in methods of reading
5 and reading in the content area, and (v) have met all other
6 criteria established by rule of the State Board of
7 Education shall be issued a Professional Educator License.

8 Persons seeking a Professional Educator License with a
9 School support personnel endorsement or chief school
10 business official endorsement are exempt from the
11 requirements in items (iii) and (iv). All Professional
12 Educator Licenses are valid until June 30 immediately
13 following 5 years of the license being issued. The
14 Professional Educator License shall be endorsed with
15 specific areas and grade levels in which the individual is
16 eligible to practice. For an early childhood education
17 endorsement, an individual may satisfy the student
18 teaching requirement of his or her early childhood teacher
19 preparation program through placement in a setting with
20 children from birth through grade 2, and the individual
21 may be paid and receive credit while student teaching. The
22 student teaching experience must meet the requirements of
23 and be approved by the individual's early childhood
24 teacher preparation program.

25 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the
26 Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements

1 shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework
2 in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable
3 content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

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

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

13 An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued
14 with the following endorsements:

15 (A) (Blank).

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

21 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited
22 college or university with a minimum of a
23 bachelor's degree.

24 (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of
25 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for
26 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 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55 of this Code.

(iv) Passed a content area test required under

Section 21B-30 of this Code.

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

(D) (Blank).

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

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

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

An individual who holds a valid career and technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and privileges granted to a holder of a Professional

1 Educator License.

2 (F) (Blank).

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

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

14 (ii) Has the ability to successfully
15 communicate in English.

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

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

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

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

18 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual
19 endorsement.

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

24 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from
25 a regionally accredited institution of higher
26 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 institution of higher education; (ii) has passed a paraprofessional competency test under subsection (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at least 18 years

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

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

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

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

23 The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules
24 necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

25 (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional
26 in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License

1 with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has
2 completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation
3 program at an Illinois institution of higher education
4 and who has not successfully completed an
5 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but
6 who meets all of the following requirements:

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

8 (ii) Has completed an approved educator
9 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

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

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

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

22 (M) (Blank).

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

26 (O) Provisional career and technical educator. A

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

14 A provisional career and technical educator
15 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations
16 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years
17 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

18 An individual who holds a provisional career and
19 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License
20 with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in
21 career and technical education classrooms.

22 An individual who holds a provisional career and
23 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License
24 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and
25 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional
26 Educator License.

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

Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

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

A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under contract because of an emergency situation, then a district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the district if the district notifies the appropriate regional office of education within 5 business days after the employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant

1 position. A district may continue to employ that same
2 substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90
3 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever
4 is greater, if, prior to the expiration of the
5 30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a
6 written request with the appropriate regional office of
7 education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis
8 that the position remains vacant and the district
9 continues to actively seek qualified candidates and
10 provides documentation that it has provided training
11 specific to the position, including training on meeting
12 the needs of students with disabilities and English
13 learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be
14 granted in writing by the regional office of education. An
15 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy
16 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to
17 fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher
18 capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications
19 or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified
20 candidates, and the district is actively engaged in
21 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the
22 vacant position.

23 There is no limit on the number of days that a
24 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,
25 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer
26 than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year

1 through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school
2 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the
3 same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a
4 Professional Educator License or Educator License with
5 Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days
6 for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same
7 school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the
8 number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not
9 apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of
10 this Code.

11 A school district may not require an individual who
12 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator
13 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute
14 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

15 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning
16 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may
17 apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a
18 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term
19 Substitute Teaching License may be issued to a qualified
20 applicant for substitute teaching in all grades of the
21 public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12.
22 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible
23 for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute
24 Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have
25 completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally
26 accredited institution of higher education.

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

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

9 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
10 License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per
11 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher
12 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who
13 is under contract, a school district may not hire an
14 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching
15 License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due
16 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the
17 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual
18 holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must
19 complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or
20 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public
21 school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this
22 Section are valid for 5 years.

23 (Source: P.A. 102-711, eff. 1-1-23; 102-712, eff. 4-27-22;
24 102-713, eff. 1-1-23; 102-717, eff. 4-29-22; 102-894, eff.
25 5-20-22; 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;
26 103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.

1 7-1-24.)

2 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

3 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

4 (a) (Blank).

5 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
6 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design
7 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be
8 required prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These
9 examinations and indicators must be based on national and
10 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the
11 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
12 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. By July 1, 2027, the
State Superintendent of Education shall begin incorporating
the following topics into revised examinations for individuals
seeking a Professional Educator License endorsed in teaching
or administration, excluding a chief school business official
endorsement: (i) methods of instruction of the exceptional
child; (ii) methods of reading and reading in the content
area; and (iii) instructional strategies for English learners.

20 The State Board of Education may adopt such rules as may be
21 necessary to implement and administer this Section.

22 (c) (Blank).

23 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a
24 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an
25 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a

1 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the
2 endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other
3 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section
4 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

5 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be
6 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area
7 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There
8 shall be no exception to this requirement except for an
9 applicant seeking a school support personnel endorsement who
10 holds an active and valid professional license issued by the
11 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation in the
12 same subject matter as the endorsement sought, as specified by
13 rule by the State Board, or as provided under subparagraph (P)
14 of paragraph (1) of Section 21B-20. No candidate may be
15 allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record
16 until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

17 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable
18 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date
19 of Public Act 103-402) to develop a plan to transition the test
20 of content area knowledge in the endorsement area of
21 elementary education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to
22 a content area test that contains testing elements that cover
23 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,
24 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate
25 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable
26 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State

Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on the language and literacy portion of the test on the recommended cut-score determined in the formal standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of candidates in each preparation program who take the test and the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

(e) (Blank) .

(f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a teacher preparation program in this State or candidate subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required to pass a teacher performance assessment. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until August 4, 2023 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) and beginning again on July 1, 2028 ~~September 1, 2025~~, all candidates completing teacher preparation programs in this State and all candidates subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher performance assessment approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. A candidate may not be required to submit test materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation, an individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district designated as

1 Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after application to the
2 State Board, receive from the State Board a refund for any
3 costs associated with completing the teacher performance
4 assessment under this subsection.

5 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is
6 created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective
7 teacher performance assessment systems for implementation
8 across all educator preparation programs in this State, with
9 the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and
10 supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.
11 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,
12 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force
13 shall consist of all of the following members:

14 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
15 President of the Senate.

16 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
17 Minority Leader of the Senate.

18 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

20 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,
21 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
22 Representatives.

23 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional
24 teachers' organization, appointed by the State
25 Superintendent of Education.

26 (6) One member who represents a different statewide

1 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the
2 State Superintendent of Education.

3 (7) One member from a statewide organization
4 representing school principals, appointed by the State
5 Superintendent of Education.

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

9 (9) One member from a statewide organization
10 representing school administrators, appointed by the State
11 Superintendent of Education.

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

15 (11) One member of an association representing rural
16 and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent
17 of Education.

18 (12) One member representing a suburban school
19 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of
20 Education.

21 (13) One member from a statewide organization
22 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of
23 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
24 of Education.

25 (14) One member from a statewide organization
26 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the

State Superintendent of Education.

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

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

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

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

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

On or before October 31, 2024, the Task Force shall report

1 on its work, including recommendations on a teacher
2 performance assessment system in this State, to the State
3 Board of Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is
4 dissolved upon submission of this report.

5 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher
6 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to
7 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in
8 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
9 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing
10 organization or tests designed by the State Board of
11 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
12 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall
13 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The
14 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no
15 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis
16 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to
17 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The
18 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State
19 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
20 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of
21 Education's rules for scoring the content area knowledge test
22 may include scoring and retaking of each test section
23 separately and independently. The tests shall be administered
24 not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be
25 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation
26 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

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

11 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
12 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without
13 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test
14 validation, and determination of a passing score,
15 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
16 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
17 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
18 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
19 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to
20 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

21 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;
22 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; 103-605, eff. 7-1-24; 103-780, eff.
23 8-2-24; 103-811, eff. 8-9-24; 103-846, eff. 8-9-24.)

24 (105 ILCS 5/21B-32 new)

25 Sec. 21B-32. Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory

1 Committee.

2 (a) The State Superintendent of Education shall establish
3 a Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory Committee of no more
4 than 15 members to aid in operationalizing and creating a
5 pilot, State-developed, teacher performance assessment (TPA) .

6 The Committee shall, at a minimum, do all of the following:

7 (1) Create materials and resources that are necessary
8 for the implementation of a TPA.

9 (2) Identify sources of evidence required for the
10 evaluation of a TPA.

11 (3) Monitor a multiyear pilot program to create a
12 State-developed TPA and make recommendations informed by
13 collected data of modifications to the TPA.

14 (4) Support the State Board of Education in developing
15 rubrics and the resources necessary for the completion and
16 evaluation of the valid and reliable assessment, creating
17 the required training for evaluators of the assessment,
18 implementing the multiyear pilot program, including, but
19 not limited to, establishing criteria and sufficient
20 evidence for successful completion of the TPA, and
21 recommending refinements to the assessment as needed.

22 (b) The membership of the Committee shall include
23 individuals with expertise in assessment development,
24 including statisticians and psychometricians, and individuals
25 with expertise in the elements of effective teaching,
26 including current Illinois educators. The membership of the

1 Committee shall represent the ethnic, racial, and geographic
2 diversity of this State and include expertise across early
3 childhood, elementary, middle, and high school settings, as
4 well as expertise in the instruction of English learners and
5 students with disabilities.

6 (c) The State Board of Education shall provide
7 administrative support to the Committee.

8 (d) Members of the Committee shall serve without
9 compensation, but may be reimbursed for reasonable and
10 necessary expenses, including travel, from funds appropriated
11 to the State Board of Education for that purpose, subject to
12 the rules of the appropriate travel control board.

13 (e) The first meeting of the Committee shall be at the call
14 of the State Superintendent, and each subsequent meeting shall
15 be at the call of the chairperson, who shall be designated by
16 the State Superintendent. The Committee shall hold regular
17 meetings at least quarterly and such other meetings as
18 determined by its chairperson.

19 (f) Data from completed pilot TPAs from institutions of
20 higher education with approved educator preparation programs
21 shall be shared with the Committee, which shall, as
22 applicable, provide an annual recommendation on the use of the
23 TPA to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board and
24 the State Board of Education.

25 (g) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
26 Committee, may adopt such rules as may be necessary for the

1 administration of this Section.

2 (h) This Section is repealed on January 1, 2028.

3 (105 ILCS 5/21B-35)

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

6 (a) Any applicant who has not been entitled by an
7 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois
8 institution of higher education applying for a Professional
9 Educator License endorsed in a teaching field or school
10 support personnel area must meet the following requirements:

11 (1) the applicant must:

12 (A) hold a comparable and valid educator license
13 or certificate, as defined by rule, with similar grade
14 level and content area credentials from another state,
15 with the State Board of Education having the authority
16 to determine what constitutes similar grade level and
17 content area credentials from another state;

18 (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally
19 accredited institution of higher education; ~~and~~

20 (C) (blank); and ~~or~~

21 (D) have successfully passed all State
22 examinations required by Section 21B-30; or

23 (2) the applicant must:

24 (A) have completed a state-approved program for
25 the licensure area sought. Until July 1, 2027 or the

1 date that the revised test for a particular content
2 area is implemented, whichever is later, the program
3 must include, including coursework concerning (i)
4 methods of instruction of the exceptional child, (ii)
5 methods of reading that align with all applicable
6 standards set forth in Part 23 of Title 23 of the
7 Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
8 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
9 English learners;

10 (B) have a bachelor's degree from a regionally
11 accredited institution of higher education;

12 (C) have successfully met all Illinois examination
13 requirements, except that:

14 (i) (blank);

15 (ii) an applicant who has successfully
16 completed a test of content, as defined by rules,
17 at the time of initial licensure in another state
18 is not required to complete a test of content; and

19 (iii) an applicant for a teaching endorsement
20 who has successfully completed an evidence-based
21 assessment of teacher effectiveness, as defined by
22 rules, at the time of initial licensure in another
23 state is not required to complete an
24 evidence-based assessment of teacher
25 effectiveness; and

26 (D) for an applicant for a teaching endorsement,

1 have completed student teaching or an equivalent
2 experience or, for an applicant for a school service
3 personnel endorsement, have completed an internship or
4 an equivalent experience.

5 (b) In order to receive a Professional Educator License
6 endorsed in a teaching field or school support personnel area,
7 applicants trained in another country must meet all of the
8 following requirements:

9 (1) Have completed a comparable education program in
10 another country.

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

13 (3) Have a degree comparable to a degree from a
14 regionally accredited institution of higher education.

15 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised
16 test for a particular content area is implemented,
17 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned
18 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the
19 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with
20 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23
21 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
22 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
23 English learners. Applicants seeking a school support
24 personnel endorsement are exempt from this paragraph (4).

25 (5) (Blank).

26 (6) (Blank).

(7) Have successfully met all State licensure examination requirements. ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of content, as defined by rules, at the time of initial licensure in another country shall not be required to complete a test of content. Applicants for a teaching endorsement who have successfully completed an evidence based assessment of teacher effectiveness, as defined by rules, at the time of initial licensure in another country shall not be required to complete an evidence based assessment of teacher effectiveness.~~

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

(9) (Blank) .

(b-5) All applicants who have not been entitled by an Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois institution of higher education and applicants trained in another country applying for a Professional Educator License endorsed for principal or superintendent must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and hold a comparable and valid educator license or certificate with similar grade level and subject matter credentials, with the State Board of Education having the authority to determine what constitutes similar grade level and subject matter credentials from another state, or must meet all of the following requirements:

(1) Have completed an educator preparation program

1 approved by another state or comparable educator program
2 in another country leading to the receipt of a license or
3 certificate for the Illinois endorsement sought.

4 (2) Have successfully met all State licensure
5 examination requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of
6 this Code. ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a~~
7 ~~test of content, as defined by rules, at the time of~~
8 ~~initial licensure in another state or country shall not be~~
9 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

10 (2.5) Have completed an internship, as defined by
11 rule.

12 (3) (Blank).

13 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised
14 test for a particular content area is implemented,
15 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned
16 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the
17 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with
18 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23
19 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the
20 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
21 English learners.

22 (4.5) (Blank).

23 (5) Have completed a master's degree.

24 (6) Have successfully completed teaching, school
25 support, or administrative experience as defined by rule.

26 (b-7) All applicants who have not been entitled by an

1 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois
2 institution of higher education applying for a Professional
3 Educator License endorsed for Director of Special Education
4 must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited
5 institution of higher education and must hold a comparable and
6 valid educator license or certificate with similar grade level
7 and subject matter credentials, with the State Board of
8 Education having the authority to determine what constitutes
9 similar grade level and subject matter credentials from
10 another state, or must meet all of the following requirements:

11 (1) Have completed a master's degree.

12 (2) Have 2 years of full-time experience providing
13 special education services.

14 (3) Have successfully completed all examination
15 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

16 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~
17 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~
18 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~
19 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

20 (4) Until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised
21 test for a particular content area is implemented,
22 whichever is later, have ~~Have~~ completed coursework aligned
23 to standards concerning (i) methods of instruction of the
24 exceptional child, (ii) methods of reading that align with
25 all applicable standards set forth in Part 26 of Title 23
26 of the Illinois Administrative Code and reading in the

1 content area, and (iii) instructional strategies for
2 English learners.

3 (b-10) All applicants who have not been entitled by an
4 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an Illinois
5 institution of higher education applying for a Professional
6 Educator License endorsed for chief school business official
7 must hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited
8 institution of higher education and must hold a comparable and
9 valid educator license or certificate with similar grade level
10 and subject matter credentials, with the State Board of
11 Education having the authority to determine what constitutes
12 similar grade level and subject matter credentials from
13 another state, or must meet all of the following requirements:

14 (1) Have completed a master's degree in school
15 business management, finance, or accounting.

16 (2) Have successfully completed an internship in
17 school business management or have 2 years of experience
18 as a school business administrator.

19 (3) Have successfully met all State examination
20 requirements, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.
21 ~~Applicants who have successfully completed a test of~~
22 ~~content, as identified by rules, at the time of initial~~
23 ~~licensure in another state or country shall not be~~
24 ~~required to complete a test of content.~~

25 (4) (Blank). ~~Have completed modules aligned to~~
26 ~~standards concerning methods of instruction of the~~

1 ~~exceptional child, methods of reading and reading in the~~
2 ~~content area, and instructional strategies for English~~
3 ~~learners.~~

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

7 (Source: P.A. 102-539, eff. 8-20-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23.)

8 (105 ILCS 5/21B-47 new)

9 Sec. 21B-47. Paraprofessional to Teacher Pathway Program.

10 (a) There is established the Paraprofessional Teacher
11 Pathway Program. The Paraprofessional Teacher Pathway Program
12 may be offered by a recognized institution approved to offer
13 educator preparation programs by the State Board of Education,
14 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and
15 Licensure Board. The Program shall provide an expedited
16 pathway for paraprofessionals to earn a Professional Educator
17 License in a specific content area, including, but not limited
18 to, elementary education or special education. The Program
19 shall create a partnership with the institution and other
20 entities, as defined by rule by the State Board of Education.

21 (b) The Program shall meet all of the following criteria:

22 (1) The Program shall include a program of study with
23 coursework in instructional planning, instructional
24 strategies, including special education, reading, and
25 English language learning, classroom management, and the

1 assessment of students and use of data to drive
2 instruction.

3 (2) The Program shall meet the criteria of 23 Ill.
4 Adm. Code 25.25(a)(2)(A) relative to required coursework.

5 (3) The Program shall include student teaching or an
6 equivalent experience.

7 (c) An individual shall meet all of the following
8 requirements for entry into the Program:

9 (1) The individual holds a valid Educator License with
10 Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement
11 or a valid paraprofessional approval.

12 (2) The individual is employed as a paraprofessional
13 providing service to one or more students within the
14 licensure content area sought, such as elementary
15 education or special education.

16 (3) The individual has worked at least 2 years as a
17 paraprofessional.

18 (4) The individual has completed at least 60 semester
19 hours of coursework from a regionally accredited
20 institution of higher education.

21 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules
22 necessary to implement this Section, including, but not
23 limited to, program proposal requirements.

24 (105 ILCS 5/21B-105)

25 Sec. 21B-105. Granting of recognition; regional

1 accreditation; definitions.

2 (a) "Recognized", as used in this Article in connection
3 with the word "school" or "institution", means such college,
4 university, or for-profit or not-for-profit entity that meets
5 requirements set by the State Board of Education, in
6 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
7 Board. Application for recognition of the school or
8 institution as an educator preparation institution must be
9 made to the State Board of Education. The State Board of
10 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
11 and Licensure Board, shall set the criteria by which the
12 school or institution is to be judged and, through the
13 secretary of the State Board, arrange for an official
14 inspection and shall grant recognition of such school or
15 institution as may meet the required standards. If the
16 standards include requirements with regard to education in
17 acquiring skills in working with culturally distinctive
18 students, as defined by the State Board of Education, then the
19 rules of the State Board of Education shall include the
20 criteria used to evaluate compliance with this requirement. No
21 school or institution may make assignments of student teachers
22 or teachers for practice teaching so as to promote segregation
23 on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national
24 origin.

25 Any for-profit or not-for-profit entity must also be
26 approved by the Board of Higher Education.

1 All recommendations or entitlements for educator licensure
2 shall be made by a recognized institution operating a program
3 of preparation for the license that is approved by the State
4 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
5 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education,
6 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and
7 Licensure Board, shall have the power to define a major or
8 minor when used as a basis for recognition and licensure
9 purposes.

10 (b) "Regionally accredited", or "accredited", as used in
11 this Article in connection with a university or institution,
12 means an institution of higher education accredited by the
13 North Central Association or other comparable regional
14 accrediting association.

15 (c) An institution of higher education approved to offer
16 educator preparation programs in this State may, upon the
17 request of a public community college in this State, enter
18 into a partnership agreement with the community college to
19 offer an approved educator preparation program leading to
20 educator licensure for individuals who already hold a
21 bachelor's degree. The partnership must be approved by the
22 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
23 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

24 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
25 requirements of a partnership agreement under this subsection.

26 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18.)

1

INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 105 ILCS 5/21B-10

4 105 ILCS 5/21B-20

5 105 ILCS 5/21B-30

6 105 ILCS 5/21B-32 new

7 105 ILCS 5/21B-35

8 105 ILCS 5/21B-47 new

9 105 ILCS 5/21B-105