

SB3331



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3331

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Sen. Terri Bryant

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-105

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Allows an institution of higher education approved to offer educator preparation programs to pursue accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). Provides that an institution of higher education that receives and retains CAEP accreditation may forgo the State reauthorization process. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules for the reauthorization of a CAEP-accredited institution of higher education.

LRB104 17539 LNS 30967 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 Section
5 21B-105 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-105)

7 Sec. 21B-105. Granting of recognition; regional
8 accreditation; definitions.

9 (a) "Recognized", as used in this Article in connection
10 with the word "school" or "institution", means such college,
11 university, or for-profit or not-for-profit entity that meets
12 requirements set by the State Board of Education, in
13 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
14 Board. Application for recognition of the school or
15 institution as an educator preparation institution must be
16 made to the State Board of Education. The State Board of
17 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
18 and Licensure Board, shall set the criteria by which the
19 school or institution is to be judged and, through the
20 secretary of the State Board, arrange for an official
21 inspection and shall grant recognition of such school or
22 institution as may meet the required standards. If the
23 standards include requirements with regard to education in

1 acquiring skills in working with culturally distinctive
2 students, as defined by the State Board of Education, then the
3 rules of the State Board of Education shall include the
4 criteria used to evaluate compliance with this requirement. No
5 school or institution may make assignments of student teachers
6 or teachers for practice teaching so as to promote segregation
7 on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national
8 origin.

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

11 All recommendations or entitlements for educator licensure
12 shall be made by a recognized institution operating a program
13 of preparation for the license that is approved by the State
14 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
15 Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education,
16 in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and
17 Licensure Board, shall have the power to define a major or
18 minor when used as a basis for recognition and licensure
19 purposes.

20 (b) "Regionally accredited", or "accredited", as used in
21 this Article in connection with a university or institution,
22 means an institution of higher education accredited by the
23 North Central Association or other comparable regional
24 accrediting association.

25 (c) An institution of higher education approved to offer
26 educator preparation programs in this State may, upon the

1 request of a public community college in this State, enter
2 into a partnership agreement with the community college to
3 offer an approved educator preparation program leading to
4 educator licensure for individuals who already hold a
5 bachelor's degree. The partnership must be approved by the
6 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
7 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

10 (d) An institution of higher education approved to offer
11 educator preparation programs in this State may pursue
12 accreditation by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator
13 Preparation (CAEP). An institution of higher education that
14 receives and retains CAEP accreditation may forgo the State
15 reauthorization process.

16 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
17 reauthorization of a CAEP-accredited institution of higher
18 education.

19 (Source: P.A. 104-128, eff. 1-1-26.)