

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-45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

7 Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

8 (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License
9 are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as
10 specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this
11 Code.

12 Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall
13 meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section, unless
14 otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds a
15 license endorsed in more than one area that has different
16 renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal
17 requirements for the position for which he or she spends the
18 majority of his or her time working.

19 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
20 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
21 year. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if
22 a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the
23 State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon (i)
4 payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State Board
5 of Education or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by
6 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
7 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
8 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's endorsement
9 areas. Any and all back fees, including without limitation
10 registration fees owed from the time of expiration of the
11 license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid and kept
12 in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this Code
13 concerning an institute fund and the provisions in Article 21B
14 of this Code concerning fees and requirements for registration.
15 Licenses not registered in accordance with Section 21B-40 of
16 this Code shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the
17 expiration of the last year of registration or on January 1 of
18 the fiscal year following initial issuance of the license. An
19 unregistered license is invalid after September 1 for
20 employment and performance of services in an Illinois public or
21 State-operated school or cooperative and in a charter school.
22 Any license or endorsement may be voluntarily surrendered by
23 the license holder. A voluntarily surrendered license, except a
24 substitute teaching license issued under Section 21B-20 of this
25 Code, shall be treated as a revoked license. An Educator
26 License with Stipulations with only a paraprofessional

1 endorsement does not lapse.

2 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
3 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
4 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
5 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
6 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
7 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
8 this Code, per fiscal year.

9 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
10 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
11 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
12 professional development plan each year. The plan shall address
13 one or more of the endorsements that are required of his or her
14 educator position if the licensee is employed and performing
15 services in an Illinois public or State-operated school or
16 cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a charter school,
17 the plan shall address that endorsement or those endorsements
18 most closely related to his or her educator position. Licensees
19 employed and performing services in any other Illinois schools
20 may participate in the renewal requirements by adhering to the
21 same process.

22 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the
23 licensee's professional development activities shall align
24 with one or more of the following criteria:

25 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
26 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,

1 discovery, and application as they relate to student
2 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

3 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
4 performance;

5 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
6 growth or district improvement;

7 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

8 (5) higher education coursework.

9 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
10 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
11 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into
12 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
13 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
14 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
15 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
16 activities:

17 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours
18 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in
19 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided in
20 this Section.

21 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
22 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not
23 working in a position requiring such endorsement is not
24 required to complete Illinois Administrators' Academy
25 courses, as described in Article 2 of this Code. Such
26 licensees must complete one Illinois Administrators'

1 Academy course within one year after returning to a
2 position that requires the administrative endorsement.

3 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
4 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
5 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
6 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
7 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
8 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
9 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
10 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

11 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
12 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
13 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
14 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order
15 to renew the license.

16 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
17 require educator licensure or working in a position for
18 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
19 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
20 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
21 license.

22 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
23 from a State of Illinois retirement system shall notify the
24 State Board of Education using ELIS, and the license shall
25 be maintained in retired status. For any renewal cycle in
26 which a licensee retires during the renewal cycle, the

1 licensee must complete professional development activities
2 on a prorated basis depending on the number of years during
3 the renewal cycle the educator held an active license. If a
4 licensee retires during a renewal cycle, the licensee must
5 notify the State Board of Education using ELIS that the
6 licensee wishes to maintain the license in retired status
7 and must show proof of completion of professional
8 development activities on a prorated basis for all years of
9 that renewal cycle for which the license was active. An
10 individual with a license in retired status shall not be
11 required to complete professional development activities
12 or pay registration fees until returning to a position that
13 requires educator licensure. Upon returning to work in a
14 position that requires the Professional Educator License,
15 the licensee shall immediately pay a registration fee and
16 complete renewal requirements for that year. A license in
17 retired status cannot lapse. Beginning on January 6, 2017
18 (the effective date of Public Act 99-920) through December
19 31, 2017, any licensee who has retired and whose license
20 has lapsed for failure to renew as provided in this Section
21 may reinstate that license and maintain it in retired
22 status upon providing proof to the State Board of Education
23 using ELIS that the licensee is retired and is not working
24 in a position that requires a Professional Educator
25 License.

26 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional

1 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
2 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
3 minimum professional development hours required in this
4 Section prior to September 1 of that year. Professional
5 development hours used to fulfill the minimum required
6 hours for a renewal cycle may be used for only one renewal
7 cycle. For any fiscal year or renewal cycle in which an
8 Illinois Administrators' Academy course was required but
9 not completed, the licensee shall complete any missed
10 Illinois Administrators' Academy courses prior to
11 September 1 of that year. The licensee may complete all
12 deficient hours and Illinois Administrators' Academy
13 courses while continuing to work in a position that
14 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

15 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the professional
16 development renewal requirements set forth in this Section
17 at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is ineligible to
18 register his or her license and may submit an appeal to the
19 State Superintendent of Education for reinstatement of the
20 license.

21 (9) If professional development opportunities were
22 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
23 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
24 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
25 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
26 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an

1 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
2 during the extension period.

3 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
4 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610)
5 shall commence the annual renewal process with the first
6 scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013 (the
7 effective date of Public Act 98-610).

8 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
9 subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required
10 number of professional development hours during a renewal
11 cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned
12 from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the
13 renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must
14 be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois
15 Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those
16 courses may not be carried over.

17 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to
18 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

19 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved
20 to provide professional development activities for the renewal
21 of Professional Educator Licenses:

22 (1) The State Board of Education.

23 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
24 service centers.

25 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
26 the following groups that are approved by the State

1 Superintendent of Education:

2 (A) school administrators;

3 (B) principals;

4 (C) school business officials;

5 (D) teachers, including special education
6 teachers;

7 (E) school boards;

8 (F) school districts;

9 (G) parents; and

10 (H) school service personnel.

11 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
12 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
13 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
14 to the Public Community College Act.

15 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
16 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
17 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
18 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
19 education or special education services.

20 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
21 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has
22 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
23 of Education to provide professional development services
24 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
25 districts, teachers, or administrators.

26 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State

1 commissions.

2 (8) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
3 Disposition of Property Act.

4 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
5 shall make available professional development opportunities
6 that satisfy at least one of the following:

7 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
8 district leaders who guide continuous professional
9 development;

10 (2) improve the learning of students;

11 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose
12 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

13 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

14 (5) provide educators with research-based
15 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
16 rigorous academic standards;

17 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
18 types of classroom assessments;

19 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
20 intended goals;

21 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
22 collaborate; ~~or~~

23 (9) prepare educators to apply research to
24 decision-making; or ~~or~~

25 (10) provide educators with training on inclusive
26 practices in the classroom that examines instructional and

1 behavioral strategies that improve academic and
2 social-emotional outcomes for all students, with or
3 without disabilities, in a general education setting.

4 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
5 shall do the following:

6 (1) align professional development activities to the
7 State-approved national standards for professional
8 learning;

9 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
10 Illinois licensure renewal;

11 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
12 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
13 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
14 learning or school improvement;

15 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
16 activities;

17 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
18 completion of activities; and

19 (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number
20 (IEIN) for each educator during each professional
21 development activity.

22 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
23 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school
24 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of
25 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of
26 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for

1 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The
2 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of
3 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this Section
4 or administrative rules are not being met. The State Board of
5 Education shall complete random audits of licensees.

6 (1) (Blank).

7 (2) Approved providers shall comply with the
8 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by
9 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education
10 demonstrating how the professional development activities
11 impacted one or more of the following:

12 (A) educator and student growth in regards to
13 content knowledge or skills, or both;

14 (B) educator and student social and emotional
15 growth; or

16 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
17 plans.

18 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
19 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
20 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
21 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has
22 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
23 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
24 in rules.

25 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
26 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each

1 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
2 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed and
3 entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
4 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
5 debit card.

6 (l) Any professional educator licensee endorsed for school
7 support personnel who is employed and performing services in
8 Illinois public schools and who holds an active and current
9 professional license issued by the Department of Financial and
10 Professional Regulation or a national certification board, as
11 approved by the State Board of Education, related to the
12 endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License shall be
13 deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
14 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
15 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
16 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who does
17 not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial and
18 Professional Regulation shall complete professional
19 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
20 Educator License provided for in this Section.

21 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
22 Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of notice from
23 the State Superintendent of Education that a license will not
24 be renewed based upon failure to complete the requirements of
25 this Section. A licensee may appeal that decision to the State
26 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board in a manner prescribed

1 by rule.

2 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
3 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
4 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
5 State Board of Education.

6 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
7 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
8 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
9 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
10 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
11 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
12 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
13 consist of the following:

14 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
15 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
16 if applicable;

17 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
18 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
19 statement of assurance for renewal; and

20 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
21 nonrenewal of the license.

22 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
23 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding license
24 renewal by certified mail, return receipt requested, no
25 later than 30 days after reaching a decision. Upon receipt
26 of notification of renewal, the licensee, using ELIS, shall

1 pay the applicable registration fee for the next cycle
2 using a form of credit or debit card.

3 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be
4 necessary to implement this Section.

5 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-130, eff. 7-24-15;
6 99-591, eff. 1-1-17; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17;
7 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-339, eff. 8-25-17; 100-596, eff.
8 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18.)