

SB0496



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB0496

Introduced 2/23/2021, by Sen. Jason A. Barickman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-25

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to establish grade level endorsements to be added to the Professional Educator License in the categories of: (i) Elementary (grades K through 9); and (ii) Secondary (grades 6 through 12). Provides for the adoption of rules regarding requirements for obtaining grade level endorsements. Makes conforming changes. Effective immediately.

LRB102 15856 CMG 21225 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-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 shall establish
4 grade level endorsements to be added to the Professional
5 Educator License in the following categories: (i)
6 Elementary (grades K through 9); and (ii) Secondary
7 (grades 6 through 12). The State Board of Education shall
8 adopt rules regarding requirements for obtaining the
9 endorsements specified under this paragraph.

10 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content
11 area endorsements ~~developed by rule~~, the State Board of
12 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
13 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the
14 requirements for the following endorsements:

15 (A) (Blank).

16 (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement
17 shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of
18 any holder who qualifies by having all of the
19 following:

20 (i) Successful completion of a principal
21 preparation program approved in accordance with
22 Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable
23 rules.

24 (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or 4
25 total years of working in the capacity of school
26 support personnel in an Illinois public school or

1 nonpublic school recognized by the State Board of
2 Education, in a school under the supervision of
3 the Department of Corrections, or in an
4 out-of-state public school or out-of-state
5 nonpublic school meeting out-of-state recognition
6 standards comparable to those approved by the
7 State Superintendent of Education; however, the
8 State Board of Education, in consultation with the
9 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
10 shall allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of
11 experience based on meeting standards set forth in
12 such rules, including without limitation a review
13 of performance evaluations or other evidence of
14 demonstrated qualifications.

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

17 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A
18 chief school business official endorsement shall be
19 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
20 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or
21 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience
22 in school business management or 2 years of
23 university-approved practical experience, and a
24 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a
25 program approved by the State Board of Education for
26 the preparation of school business administrators and

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

13 (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent
14 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional
15 Educator License of any holder who has completed a
16 program approved by the State Board of Education for
17 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had
18 at least 2 years of experience employed full-time in a
19 general administrative position or as a full-time
20 principal, director of special education, or chief
21 school business official in the public schools or in a
22 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief
23 administrator is required to have the licensure
24 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this
25 State and where a majority of the teachers are
26 required to have the licensure necessary to be

1 instructors in a public school in this State, and has
2 passed the required State tests; or of any holder who
3 has completed a program that is not an
4 Illinois-approved educator preparation program at an
5 Illinois institution of higher education and that has
6 recognition standards comparable to those approved by
7 the State Superintendent of Education and holds the
8 general administrative, principal, or chief school
9 business official endorsement and who has had 2 years
10 of experience as a principal, director of special
11 education, or chief school business official while
12 holding a valid educator license or certificate
13 comparable in validity and educational and experience
14 requirements and has passed the appropriate State
15 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The
16 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to
17 serve only as a superintendent or assistant
18 superintendent.

19 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the
20 policy of this State to improve the quality of
21 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway
22 for teachers interested in serving in leadership
23 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of
24 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
25 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher
26 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons

1 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of
2 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader
3 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for
4 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may
5 qualify to serve in such positions as department
6 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction
7 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by
8 the district. The endorsement shall be available to
9 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator
10 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a
11 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have
12 completed a program of study that has been approved by
13 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
14 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and
15 (iv) have successfully demonstrated competencies as
16 defined by rule.

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

25 The State Board of Education, in consultation with
26 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,

1 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish
2 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program
3 and to specify the positions for which this
4 endorsement shall be required.

5 (F) Special education endorsement. A special
6 education endorsement in one or more areas shall be
7 affixed to a Professional Educator License for any
8 individual that meets those requirements established
9 by the State Board of Education in rules. Special
10 education endorsement areas shall include without
11 limitation the following:

- 12 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;
13 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;
14 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;
15 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;
16 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing;
17 (vi) Early Childhood Special Education; and
18 (vii) Director of Special Education.

19 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,
20 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
21 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may
22 add additional areas of special education by rule.

23 (G) School support personnel endorsement. School
24 support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but
25 are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and
26 family therapist, school psychologist, school speech

1 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school
2 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who
3 are not teachers or administrators, but still require
4 licensure to work in an instructional support position
5 in a public or State-operated elementary school,
6 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement
7 with a governing body or board of control or a charter
8 school operating in compliance with the Charter
9 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement
10 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License
11 and shall meet all of the requirements established in
12 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).
13 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of
14 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other
15 Professional Educator License, including teacher
16 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

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

21 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law.