

HB4277



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB4277

Introduced 1/16/2024, by Rep. Janet Yang Rohr

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-25

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Requires the world language endorsement on a Professional Educator License to include American Sign Language under rules of the State Board of Education.

LRB103 34620 RJT 64461 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. Under these rules, the world
3 language endorsement shall include American Sign Language.

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

9 (A) (Blank).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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