

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-30 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-30)

7 Sec. 21B-30. Educator testing.

8 (a) (Blank).

9 (b) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
10 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall design  
11 and implement a system of examinations, which shall be  
12 required prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These  
13 examinations and indicators must be based on national and  
14 State professional teaching standards, as determined by the  
15 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
16 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. The State Board of  
17 Education may adopt such rules as may be necessary to  
18 implement and administer this Section.

19 (c) (Blank).

20 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a  
21 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an  
22 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a  
23 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the

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

4 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
5 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
6 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
7 shall be no exception to this requirement. ~~No candidate shall~~  
8 ~~be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record~~  
9 ~~until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.~~

10 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable  
11 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date  
12 of Public Act 103-402) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd~~  
13 ~~General Assembly~~ to develop a plan to transition the test of  
14 content area knowledge in the endorsement area of elementary  
15 education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to a content  
16 area test that contains testing elements that cover  
17 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,  
18 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate  
19 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable  
20 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State  
21 Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on  
22 the language and literacy portion of the test on the  
23 recommended cut-score determined in the formal  
24 standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a  
25 particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The  
26 State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of

1 candidates in each preparation program who take the test and  
2 the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

3 (e) (Blank).

4 (f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of  
5 Public Act 103-488) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd General~~  
6 ~~Assembly~~ through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a  
7 teacher preparation program in this State or candidate subject  
8 to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required to pass a teacher  
9 performance assessment. Except as otherwise provided in this  
10 Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until August 4, 2023  
11 (the effective date of Public Act 103-488) ~~this amendatory Act~~  
12 ~~of the 103rd General Assembly~~ and beginning again on September  
13 1, 2025, all candidates completing teacher preparation  
14 programs in this State and all candidates subject to Section  
15 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher performance  
16 assessment approved by the State Board of Education, in  
17 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
18 Board. A candidate may not be required to submit test  
19 materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation, an  
20 individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is  
21 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district  
22 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after  
23 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a  
24 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher  
25 performance assessment under this subsection.

26 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is

1 created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective  
2 teacher performance assessment systems for implementation  
3 across all educator preparation programs in this State, with  
4 the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and  
5 supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.  
6 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,  
7 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force  
8 shall consist of all of the following members:

9 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
10 President of the Senate.

11 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
12 Minority Leader of the Senate.

13 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,  
14 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

15 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,  
16 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
17 Representatives.

18 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional  
19 teachers' organization, appointed by the State  
20 Superintendent of Education.

21 (6) One member who represents a different statewide  
22 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the  
23 State Superintendent of Education.

24 (7) One member from a statewide organization  
25 representing school principals, appointed by the State  
26 Superintendent of Education.

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

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

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

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

13           (12) One member representing a suburban school  
14 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
15 Education.

16           (13) One member from a statewide organization  
17 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of  
18 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
19 of Education.

20           (14) One member from a statewide organization  
21 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the  
22 State Superintendent of Education.

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

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

6           (17) Three members, each representing a different  
7 4-year nonpublic university or college in this State and  
8 each a current member of the faculty of an approved  
9 educator preparation program, appointed by the State  
10 Superintendent of Education.

11           (18) One member of the Board of Higher Education,  
12 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

13           (19) One member representing a statewide policy  
14 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students  
15 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
16 Education.

17           (20) One member representing a statewide organization  
18 focused on research-based education policy to support a  
19 school system that prepares all students for college, a  
20 career, and democratic citizenship, appointed by the State  
21 Superintendent of Education.

22           (21) Two members representing an early childhood  
23 advocacy organization, appointed by the State  
24 Superintendent of Education.

25           (22) One member representing a statewide organization  
26 that partners with educator preparation programs and

1 school districts to support the growth and development of  
2 preservice teachers, appointed by the State Superintendent  
3 of Education.

4 (23) One member representing a statewide organization  
5 that advocates for educational equity and racial justice  
6 in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
7 Education.

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

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

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

21 On or before October 31 ~~August 1~~, 2024, the Task Force  
22 shall report on its work, including recommendations on a  
23 teacher performance assessment system in this State, to the  
24 State Board of Education and the General Assembly. The Task  
25 Force is dissolved upon submission of this report.

26 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher

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

22 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
23 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
24 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
25 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this  
26 Code in the English language and in the language of the



1 transitional bilingual education program requested by the  
2 applicant.

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

6 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
7 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without  
8 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test  
9 validation, and determination of a passing score,  
10 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
11 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
12 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
13 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop  
14 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to  
15 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.  
16 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;  
17 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; revised 9-1-23.)

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
19 becoming law.