

# SB3684



## 103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3684

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Sen. Michael W. Halpin

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-30

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that if the State Board declares a teacher shortage, then an applicant shall be deemed to have passed a test of content area knowledge. Provides that the State Board shall adopt rules to define a teacher shortage, and shall post and publicly display this definition on the State Board's Internet website.

LRB103 37590 RJT 67716 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-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. If the  
7 State Board declares a teacher shortage, then an applicant  
8 shall be deemed to have passed a test of content area knowledge  
9 under this Section. The State Board shall adopt rules to  
10 define a teacher shortage, and shall post and publicly display  
11 this definition on the State Board's Internet website. There  
12 ~~shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall~~  
13 ~~be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record~~  
14 ~~until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.~~

15 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable  
16 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date  
17 of Public Act 103-402) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd~~  
18 ~~General Assembly~~ to develop a plan to transition the test of  
19 content area knowledge in the endorsement area of elementary  
20 education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to a content  
21 area test that contains testing elements that cover  
22 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,  
23 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate  
24 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable  
25 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State  
26 Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on

1 the language and literacy portion of the test on the  
2 recommended cut-score determined in the formal  
3 standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a  
4 particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The  
5 State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of  
6 candidates in each preparation program who take the test and  
7 the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

8 (e) (Blank).

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

1 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after  
2 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a  
3 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher  
4 performance assessment under this subsection.

5 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is  
6 created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective  
7 teacher performance assessment systems for implementation  
8 across all educator preparation programs in this State, with  
9 the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and  
10 supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.  
11 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,  
12 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force  
13 shall consist of all of the following members:

14 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
15 President of the Senate.

16 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
17 Minority Leader of the Senate.

18 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,  
19 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

20 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,  
21 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
22 Representatives.

23 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional  
24 teachers' organization, appointed by the State  
25 Superintendent of Education.

26 (6) One member who represents a different statewide

1 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the  
2 State Superintendent of Education.

3 (7) One member from a statewide organization  
4 representing school principals, appointed by the State  
5 Superintendent of Education.

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

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

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

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

18 (12) One member representing a suburban school  
19 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
20 Education.

21 (13) One member from a statewide organization  
22 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of  
23 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
24 of Education.

25 (14) One member from a statewide organization  
26 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the

1 State Superintendent of Education.

2 (15) One member from a statewide organization  
3 representing school districts in the collar counties of  
4 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
5 of Education.

6 (16) Three members, each representing a different  
7 public university in this State and each a current member  
8 of the faculty of an approved educator preparation  
9 program, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
10 Education.

11 (17) Three members, each representing a different  
12 4-year nonpublic university or college in this State and  
13 each a current member of the faculty of an approved  
14 educator preparation program, appointed by the State  
15 Superintendent of Education.

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

18 (19) One member representing a statewide policy  
19 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students  
20 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
21 Education.

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

1           (21) Two members representing an early childhood  
2           advocacy organization, appointed by the State  
3           Superintendent of Education.

4           (22) One member representing a statewide organization  
5           that partners with educator preparation programs and  
6           school districts to support the growth and development of  
7           preservice teachers, appointed by the State Superintendent  
8           of Education.

9           (23) One member representing a statewide organization  
10          that advocates for educational equity and racial justice  
11          in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
12          Education.

13          (24) One member representing a statewide organization  
14          that represents school boards, appointed by the State  
15          Superintendent of Education.

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

19          Members of the Task Force shall serve without  
20          compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of  
21          the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent  
22          meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,  
23          who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of  
24          Education. The State Board of Education shall provide  
25          administrative and other support to the Task Force.

26          On or before August 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report on

1 its work, including recommendations on a teacher performance  
2 assessment system in this State, to the State Board of  
3 Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is  
4 dissolved upon submission of this report.

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

25 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
26 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of

1 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
2 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this  
3 Code in the English language and in the language of the  
4 transitional bilingual education program requested by the  
5 applicant.

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

9 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
10 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without  
11 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test  
12 validation, and determination of a passing score,  
13 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
14 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
15 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
16 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop  
17 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to  
18 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;  
20 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; revised 9-1-23.)