

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 Sections  
5 21-5a, 21-5b, 21-5c, 21-5d, and 21-5e as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5a) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-5a)

7 Sec. 21-5a. Alternative math-science certification. The  
8 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
9 Teacher Certification Board, may ~~shall~~ establish and implement  
10 an alternative certification program under which persons who  
11 qualify for admission to, and who successfully complete the  
12 program and meet the additional requirements established by  
13 this Section shall be issued an initial teaching certificate  
14 for teaching mathematics, science or mathematics and science in  
15 grades 9 through 12 of the common schools. In establishing an  
16 alternative certification program under this Section, the  
17 State Board of Education shall designate an appropriate area  
18 within the State where the program shall be offered and made  
19 available to persons qualified for admission to the program. In  
20 addition, the State Board of Education, in cooperation with one  
21 or more recognized institutions of higher learning, one or more  
22 non-profit entities, or a combination thereof, shall develop a  
23 comprehensive course of study that persons admitted to the

1 program must successfully complete in order to satisfy one  
2 criterion for issuance of an initial certificate under this  
3 Section. The comprehensive course of study so developed shall  
4 include one semester of practice teaching.

5 An initial teaching certificate, valid for 4 years for  
6 teaching mathematics, science or mathematics and science in  
7 grades 9 through 12 of the common schools and renewable as  
8 provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under this Section  
9 21-5a to persons who qualify for admission to the alternative  
10 certification program and who at the time of applying for an  
11 initial teaching certificate under this Section:

12 (1) have graduated with a master's degree in  
13 mathematics or any science discipline from an institution  
14 of higher learning whose scholarship standards are  
15 approved by the State Board of Education for purposes of  
16 the alternative certification program;

17 (2) have been employed for at least 10 years in an area  
18 requiring knowledge and practical application of their  
19 academic background in mathematics or a science  
20 discipline;

21 (3) have successfully completed the alternative  
22 certification program and the course of comprehensive  
23 study, including one semester of practice teaching,  
24 developed as part of the program as provided in this  
25 Section and approved by the State Board of Education; and

26 (4) have passed the examinations required by Section

1 21-1a.

2 The alternative certification program shall be implemented  
3 at the commencement of the 1992-1993 academic year.

4 The State Board of Education shall establish criteria for  
5 admission to the alternative certification program and shall  
6 adopt rules and regulations that are consistent with this  
7 Section and that the State Board of Education deems necessary  
8 to establish and implement the program.

9 Alternative certification programs under Sections 21-5a  
10 through 21-5e may be provided by various types of qualified  
11 providers, including both institutions of higher education and  
12 other providers operating independently from institutions of  
13 higher education; provided however, that any and all programs  
14 must be approved by the State Board of Education in accordance  
15 with rules and regulations.

16 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

18 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board of  
19 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
20 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an  
21 alternative certification program under which persons who meet  
22 the requirements of and successfully complete the program  
23 established by this Section shall be issued an alternative  
24 teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. The program  
25 shall be limited to not more than 260 new participants during

1 each year that the program is in effect. The State Board of  
2 Education, in cooperation with one or more not-for-profit  
3 organizations in the State that support excellence in teaching,  
4 which may be in a partnership ~~formed~~ with a university that  
5 offers 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree programs and  
6 that is a recognized institution as defined in Section 21-21,  
7 may ~~and one or more not for profit organizations in the State~~  
8 ~~which support excellence in teaching,~~ shall within 30 days  
9 after submission by the program sponsor ~~partnership~~ approve a  
10 course of study developed by the program sponsor ~~partnership~~  
11 that persons in the program must successfully complete in order  
12 to satisfy one criterion for issuance of an alternative  
13 certificate under this Section. The Alternative Teacher  
14 Certification program course of study must include ~~the current~~  
15 content and skills ~~contained in the university's current~~  
16 ~~courses for State certification~~ which have been approved by the  
17 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
18 Teacher Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for  
19 State teacher certification.

20 The alternative certification program established under  
21 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher  
22 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification  
23 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership,  
24 such partnership may be offered by ~~in conjunction with~~ one or  
25 more not-for-profit organizations in the State which support  
26 excellence in teaching. The program shall be comprised of the

1 following 3 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study  
2 offered on an intensive basis in education theory,  
3 instructional methods, and practice teaching; (b) the second  
4 phase is the person's assignment to a full-time teaching  
5 position for one school year; and (c) the third phase is a  
6 comprehensive assessment of the person's teaching performance  
7 by school officials and the partnership participants and a  
8 recommendation by the program sponsor ~~partner institution of~~  
9 ~~higher education~~ to the State Board of Education that the  
10 person be issued a standard alternative teaching certificate.  
11 Successful completion of the Alternative Teacher Certification  
12 program shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or  
13 student teaching and subject matter requirements established  
14 by law.

15 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
16 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
17 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at the  
18 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
19 certificate under this Section:

20 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
21 university with a bachelor's degree;

22 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
23 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in  
24 this Section;

25 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
26 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

1           (4) (i) have been employed for a period of at least 5  
2           years in an area requiring application of the individual's  
3           education or (ii) have attained at least a cumulative grade  
4           average of a "B" if the individual is assigned either to a  
5           school district that has not met the annual measurable  
6           objective for highly qualified teachers required by the  
7           Illinois Revised Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) Plan or to  
8           a school district whose data filed with the State Board of  
9           Education indicates that the district's poor and minority  
10          students are taught by teachers who are not highly  
11          qualified at a higher rate than other students; however,  
12          this item (4) does not apply with respect to a provisional  
13          alternative teaching certificate for teaching in schools  
14          situated in a school district that is located in a city  
15          having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.  
16          Assignment may be made under clause (ii) of this item (4)  
17          only if the district superintendent and the exclusive  
18          bargaining representative of the district's teachers, if  
19          any, jointly agree to permit the assignment.

20          A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
21          under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified  
22          teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms  
23          and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school  
24          who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an  
25          exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

26          Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching

1 certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools and  
2 renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under  
3 this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the  
4 requirements for the provisional alternative teaching  
5 certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard  
6 alternative teaching certificate under this Section have  
7 successfully completed the second and third phases of the  
8 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this  
9 Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the end  
10 of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a  
11 standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,  
12 on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate  
13 issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to  
14 apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet  
15 the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code  
16 and further provided that a person who does not apply for and  
17 receive a Standard Teaching Certificate shall be able to teach  
18 only in schools situated in a school district that is located  
19 in a city having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

20 Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed the  
21 requirements for a standard alternative teaching certificate  
22 under this Section shall be issued an Initial Alternative  
23 Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of teaching and not  
24 renewable. At the end of the 4-year validity period, these  
25 persons shall be eligible, on the same basis as holders of an  
26 Initial Teaching Certificate issued under subsection (b) of

1 Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching  
2 Certificate, provided they meet the requirements of subsection  
3 (c) of Section 21-2.

4 Such ~~This~~ alternative certification program shall be  
5 implemented so that the first provisional alternative teaching  
6 certificates issued under this Section are effective upon the  
7 commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the first  
8 standard alternative teaching certificates issued under this  
9 Section are effective upon the commencement of the 1998-1999  
10 academic year.

11 The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the  
12 partnership or partnerships establishing such ~~the~~ Alternative  
13 Teacher Certification programs ~~program~~, shall adopt rules and  
14 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the  
15 State Board of Education deems necessary to establish and  
16 implement the program.

17 (Source: P.A. 95-270, eff. 8-17-07.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c)

19 Sec. 21-5c. Alternative route to teacher certification.  
20 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
21 Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement one  
22 or more ~~an~~ alternative route to teacher certification programs  
23 ~~program~~ under which persons who meet the requirements of and  
24 successfully complete the programs ~~program~~ established by this  
25 Section shall be issued an initial teaching certificate for



1 teaching in schools in this State. The State Board of Education  
2 may ~~shall~~ approve a course of study that persons in such  
3 programs ~~the program~~ must successfully complete in order to  
4 satisfy one criterion for issuance of a certificate under this  
5 Section. The Alternative Route to Teacher Certification  
6 programs ~~program~~ course of study must include ~~the current~~  
7 content and skills ~~contained in a university's current courses~~  
8 ~~for State certification~~ which have been approved by the State  
9 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
10 Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for State  
11 teacher certification.

12 Programs ~~The program~~ established under this Section shall  
13 be known as ~~the~~ Alternative Route to Teacher Certification  
14 programs ~~program~~. The programs ~~program~~ may be offered by a  
15 university that offers 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree  
16 programs and that is a recognized institution as defined in  
17 Section 21-21, by ~~in conjunction with~~ one or more  
18 not-for-profit organizations in the State, or a combination  
19 thereof. The programs ~~program~~ shall be comprised of the  
20 following 3 phases: (a) a course of study offered on an  
21 intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,  
22 and practice teaching; (b) the person's assignment to a  
23 full-time teaching position for one school year, including the  
24 designation of a mentor teacher to advise and assist the person  
25 with that teaching assignment; and (c) a comprehensive  
26 assessment of the person's teaching performance by school

1 officials and program participants and a recommendation by the  
2 program sponsor ~~institution of higher education~~ to the State  
3 Board of Education that the person be issued an initial  
4 teaching certificate. Successful completion of ~~the~~ Alternative  
5 Route to Teacher Certification programs ~~program~~ shall be deemed  
6 to satisfy any other practice or student teaching and subject  
7 matter requirements established by law.

8 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for  
9 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,  
10 shall be issued under this Section 21-5c to persons who at the  
11 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching  
12 certificate under this Section:

13 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
14 university with a bachelor's degree;

15 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
16 in an area requiring application of the individual's  
17 education;

18 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
19 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in  
20 this Section; and

21 (4) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject  
22 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a.

23 An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in the  
24 common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-3 or 21-5 to  
25 persons who first complete the requirements for the provisional  
26 alternative teaching certificate and who at the time of

1 applying for an initial teaching certificate have successfully  
2 completed the second and third phases of the Alternative Route  
3 to Teacher Certification program as provided in this Section.

4 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate  
5 or an initial teaching certificate earned under this Section  
6 shall be treated as a regularly certified teacher for purposes  
7 of compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions of  
8 employment afforded teachers in the school who are members of a  
9 bargaining unit represented by an exclusive bargaining  
10 representative, if any.

11 The State Board of Education may adopt rules and  
12 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the  
13 State Board deems necessary to establish and implement the  
14 program.

15 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)

16 (105 ILCS 5/21-5d)

17 Sec. 21-5d. Alternative route to administrative  
18 certification. The State Board of Education, in consultation  
19 with the State Teacher Certification Board and an advisory  
20 panel consisting of no less than 7 administrators appointed by  
21 the State Superintendent of Education, shall establish and  
22 implement one or more ~~an~~ alternative route to administrative  
23 certification program under which persons who meet the  
24 requirements of and successfully complete the program  
25 established by this Section shall be issued a standard

1 administrative certificate for serving as an administrator in  
2 schools in this State. For the purposes of this Section only,  
3 "administrator" means a person holding any administrative  
4 position for which a standard administrative certificate with a  
5 general administrative endorsement, chief school business  
6 official endorsement, or superintendent endorsement is  
7 required, except a principal or an assistant principal. The  
8 State Board of Education may ~~shall~~ approve a course of study  
9 that persons in the program must successfully complete in order  
10 to satisfy one criterion for issuance of a certificate under  
11 this Section. The Alternative Route to Administrative  
12 Certification program course of study must include ~~the current~~  
13 ~~content and skills contained in a university's current courses~~  
14 ~~for State certification~~ which have been approved by the State  
15 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
16 Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for  
17 administrative certification.

18 Programs ~~The program~~ established under this Section shall  
19 be known as the Alternative Route to Administrative  
20 Certification programs ~~program~~. The programs ~~The program~~ shall  
21 be comprised of the following 3 phases: (a) a course of study  
22 offered on an intensive basis in education management,  
23 governance, organization, and planning; (b) the person's  
24 assignment to a full-time position for one school year as an  
25 administrator; and (c) a comprehensive assessment of the  
26 person's performance by school officials and a recommendation

1 to the State Board of Education that the person be issued a  
2 standard administrative certificate. Successful completion of  
3 an ~~the~~ Alternative Route to Administrative Certification  
4 program shall be deemed to satisfy any other supervisory,  
5 administrative, or management experience requirements  
6 established by law.

7 A provisional alternative administrative certificate,  
8 valid for one year of serving as an administrator in the common  
9 schools and not renewable, shall be issued under this Section  
10 21-5d to persons who at the time of applying for the  
11 provisional alternative administrative certificate under this  
12 Section:

13 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or  
14 university with a master's degree in a management field or  
15 with a bachelor's degree and the life experience equivalent  
16 of a master's degree in a management field as determined by  
17 the State Board of Education;

18 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years  
19 in a management level position;

20 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of the  
21 Alternative Route to Administrative Certification program  
22 as provided in this Section; and

23 (4) have passed any examination required by the State  
24 Board of Education.

25 A standard administrative certificate with a general  
26 administrative endorsement, chief school business official

1 endorsement, or superintendent endorsement, renewable as  
2 provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under Section 21-7.1  
3 to persons who first complete the requirements for the  
4 provisional alternative administrative certificate and who at  
5 the time of applying for a standard administrative certificate  
6 have successfully completed the second and third phases of an  
7 ~~the~~ Alternative Route to Administrative Certification program  
8 as provided in this Section.

9 The State Board of Education may adopt rules and  
10 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the  
11 State Board deems necessary to establish and implement those  
12 programs ~~the program~~.

13 (Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)

14 (105 ILCS 5/21-5e)

15 Sec. 21-5e. Alternative Route to Administrative  
16 Certification for National Board Certified Teachers.

17 (a) It shall be the policy of the State of Illinois to  
18 improve the recruitment and preparation of instructional  
19 leaders.

20 (b) On or before July 1, 2007, the State Board of  
21 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
22 Certification Board, may ~~shall~~ establish and implement one or  
23 more ~~an~~ alternative route to administrative certification for  
24 teacher leaders, to be known as the Alternative Route to an  
25 Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified

1 Teachers. "Teacher leader" means a certified teacher who has  
2 already received National Board certification through the  
3 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and who has  
4 a teacher leader endorsement under Section 21-7.5 of this Code.  
5 Persons who meet the requirements of and successfully complete  
6 ~~a the~~ program established by this Section shall be issued a  
7 standard administrative certificate for serving in schools in  
8 this State. The State Board ~~may shall~~ approve a course of study  
9 that persons must successfully complete in order to satisfy one  
10 criterion for issuance of the administrative certificate under  
11 this Section. The Alternative Route to an Administrative  
12 Certificate for National Board Certified Teachers must include  
13 ~~the current~~ content and skills contained in ~~a college's or~~  
14 ~~university's courses and~~ the Illinois Professional School  
15 Leader Standards for State certification, with the exception of  
16 content and skills ~~courses that contain the competency areas~~  
17 ~~and the Illinois Professional School Leader Standards~~ that a  
18 candidate has already demonstrated meeting ~~met~~ through  
19 National Board certification or through a teacher leadership  
20 master's degree program.

21 (c) The Alternative Route to an Administrative Certificate  
22 for National Board Certified Teachers shall be comprised of the  
23 following 4 phases:

24 (1) National Board certification and an endorsement in  
25 teacher leadership in accordance with Section 21-7.5 of  
26 this Code;

- 1           (2) a master's degree in a teacher leader program;
- 2           (3) 15 hours of coursework in which the candidate must
- 3           show evidence of meeting competencies for organizational
- 4           management and development, finance, supervision and
- 5           evaluation, policy and legal issues, and leadership, as
- 6           stated in the Illinois Professional School Leader
- 7           Standards for principals; and
- 8           (4) a passing score on the Illinois Administrator
- 9           Assessment.

10          (d) Successful completion of the Alternative Route to an

11          Administrative Certificate for National Board Certified

12          Teachers shall be deemed to satisfy all requirements to receive

13          an administrative certificate established by law. The State

14          Board shall adopt rules that are consistent with this Section

15          and that the State Board deems necessary for the establishment

16          and implementation of the program.

17          (Source: P.A. 94-1039, eff. 7-20-06.)

18          Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

19          becoming law.