

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-45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

7 Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

8 (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License
9 are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as
10 specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this
11 Code.

12 Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall
13 meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section, unless
14 otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds a
15 license endorsed in more than one area that has different
16 renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal
17 requirements for the position for which he or she spends the
18 majority of his or her time working.

19 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
20 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
21 year. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon (i)
22 payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State Board
23 of Education or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by

1 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
2 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
3 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's endorsement
4 areas. Any and all back fees, including without limitation
5 registration fees owed from the time of expiration of the
6 license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid and kept
7 in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this Code
8 concerning an institute fund and the provisions in Article 21B
9 of this Code concerning fees and requirements for registration.
10 Licenses not registered in accordance with Section 21B-40 of
11 this Code shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the
12 expiration of the last year of registration. An unregistered
13 license is invalid after September 1 for employment and
14 performance of services in an Illinois public or State-operated
15 school or cooperative and in a charter school. Any license or
16 endorsement may be voluntarily surrendered by the license
17 holder. A voluntarily surrendered license, except a substitute
18 teaching license issued under Section 21B-20 of this Code,
19 shall be treated as a revoked license. An Educator License with
20 Stipulations with only a paraprofessional endorsement does not
21 lapse.

22 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
23 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
24 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
25 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
26 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois

1 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
2 this Code, per fiscal year.

3 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
4 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
5 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
6 professional development plan each year. The plan shall address
7 one or more of the endorsements that are required of his or her
8 educator position if the licensee is employed and performing
9 services in an Illinois public or State-operated school or
10 cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a charter school,
11 the plan shall address that endorsement or those endorsements
12 most closely related to his or her educator position. Licensees
13 employed and performing services in any other Illinois schools
14 may participate in the renewal requirements by adhering to the
15 same process.

16 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the
17 licensee's professional development activities shall align
18 with one or more of the following criteria:

19 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
20 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
21 discovery, and application as they relate to student
22 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

23 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
24 performance;

25 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
26 growth or district improvement;

1 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

2 (5) higher education coursework.

3 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
4 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
5 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into
6 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
7 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
8 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
9 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
10 activities:

11 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours
12 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in
13 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided in
14 this Section.

15 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
16 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not
17 working in a position requiring such endorsement shall
18 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
19 described in Article 2 of this Code, in each 5-year renewal
20 cycle in which the administrative endorsement was held for
21 at least one year. The Illinois Administrators' Academy
22 course may count toward the total of 120 hours per 5-year
23 cycle.

24 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
25 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
26 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in

1 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
2 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
3 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
4 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
5 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

6 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
7 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
8 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
9 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order
10 to renew the license.

11 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
12 require educator licensure or working in a position for
13 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
14 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
15 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
16 license.

17 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
18 from a State retirement system shall notify the State Board
19 of Education using ELIS, and the license shall be
20 maintained in retired status. An individual with a license
21 in retired status shall not be required to complete
22 professional development activities or pay registration
23 fees until returning to a position that requires educator
24 licensure. Upon returning to work in a position that
25 requires the Professional Educator License, the licensee
26 shall immediately pay a registration fee and complete

1 renewal requirements for that year. A license in retired
2 status cannot lapse.

3 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional
4 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
5 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
6 minimum professional development hours required in this
7 Section prior to September 1 of that year. For any fiscal
8 year or renewal cycle in which an Illinois Administrators'
9 Academy course was required but not completed, the licensee
10 shall complete any missed Illinois Administrators' Academy
11 courses prior to September 1 of that year. The licensee may
12 complete all deficient hours and Illinois Administrators'
13 Academy courses while continuing to work in a position that
14 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

15 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the professional
16 development renewal requirements set forth in this Section
17 at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is ineligible to
18 register his or her license and may submit an appeal to the
19 State Superintendent of Education for reinstatement of the
20 license.

21 (9) If professional development opportunities were
22 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
23 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
24 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
25 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
26 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an

1 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
2 during the extension period.

3 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
4 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610)
5 ~~this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly~~ shall
6 commence the annual renewal process with the first
7 scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013 (the
8 effective date of Public Act 98-610) ~~this amendatory Act of~~
9 ~~the 98th General Assembly~~.

10 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
11 subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required
12 number of professional development hours during a renewal
13 cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned
14 from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the
15 renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must
16 be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois
17 Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those
18 courses may not be carried over.

19 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to
20 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

21 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved
22 to provide professional development activities for the renewal
23 of Professional Educator Licenses:

24 (1) The State Board of Education.

25 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
26 service centers.

1 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
2 the following groups that are approved by the State
3 Superintendent of Education:

4 (A) school administrators;

5 (B) principals;

6 (C) school business officials;

7 (D) teachers, including special education
8 teachers;

9 (E) school boards;

10 (F) school districts;

11 (G) parents; and

12 (H) school service personnel.

13 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
14 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
15 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
16 to the Public Community College Act.

17 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
18 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
19 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
20 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
21 education or special education services.

22 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
23 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147) ~~this~~
24 ~~amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly~~, has had or has
25 a grant from or a contract with the State Board of
26 Education to provide professional development services in

1 the area of English Learning to Illinois school districts,
2 teachers, or administrators.

3 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
4 commissions.

5 (8) ~~(7)~~ Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
6 Disposition of Property Act.

7 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
8 shall make available professional development opportunities
9 that satisfy at least one of the following:

10 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
11 district leaders who guide continuous professional
12 development;

13 (2) improve the learning of students;

14 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose
15 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

16 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

17 (5) provide educators with research-based
18 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
19 rigorous academic standards;

20 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
21 types of classroom assessments;

22 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
23 intended goals;

24 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
25 collaborate; or

26 (9) prepare educators to apply research to

1 decision-making.

2 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
3 shall do the following:

4 (1) align professional development activities to the
5 State-approved national standards for professional
6 learning;

7 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
8 Illinois licensure renewal;

9 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
10 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
11 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
12 learning or school improvement;

13 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
14 activities; and

15 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
16 completion of activities.

17 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
18 audits of approved providers, except for school districts,
19 which shall be audited by regional offices of education and
20 intermediate service centers. The State Board of Education
21 shall complete random audits of licensees.

22 (1) Approved providers shall annually submit to the
23 State Board of Education a list of subcontractors used for
24 delivery of professional development activities for which
25 renewal credit was issued and other information as defined
26 by rule.

1 (2) Approved providers shall annually submit data to
2 the State Board of Education demonstrating how the
3 professional development activities impacted one or more
4 of the following:

5 (A) educator and student growth in regards to
6 content knowledge or skills, or both;

7 (B) educator and student social and emotional
8 growth; or

9 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
10 plans.

11 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
12 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
13 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
14 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has
15 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
16 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
17 in rules.

18 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
19 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
20 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
21 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed and
22 entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
23 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
24 debit card.

25 (1) Beginning July 1, 2014, any professional educator
26 licensee endorsed for school support personnel who is employed

1 and performing services in Illinois public schools and who
2 holds an active and current professional license issued by the
3 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation related to
4 the endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License
5 shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
6 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
7 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
8 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who does
9 not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial and
10 Professional Regulation shall complete professional
11 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
12 Educator License provided for in this Section.

13 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
14 Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of notice from
15 the State Superintendent of Education that a license will not
16 be renewed based upon failure to complete the requirements of
17 this Section. A licensee may appeal that decision to the State
18 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board in a manner prescribed
19 by rule.

20 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
21 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
22 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
23 State Board of Education.

24 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
25 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
26 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to

1 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
2 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
3 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
4 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
5 consist of the following:

6 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
7 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
8 if applicable;

9 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
10 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
11 statement of assurance for renewal; and

12 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
13 nonrenewal of the license.

14 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
15 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding license
16 renewal by certified mail, return receipt requested, no
17 later than 30 days after reaching a decision. Upon receipt
18 of notification of renewal, the licensee, using ELIS, shall
19 pay the applicable registration fee for the next cycle
20 using a form of credit or debit card.

21 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be
22 necessary to implement this Section.

23 (Source: P.A. 98-610, eff. 12-27-13; 98-1147, eff. 12-31-14;
24 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-130, eff. 7-24-15; revised 10-21-15.)