

HB1118



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB1118

Introduced 1/9/2025, by Rep. Regan Deering

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-45

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Allows a lapsed Professional Educator License to be immediately reinstated upon payment to the State Board of Education by the applicant of the lesser of a \$50 penalty or a \$10 penalty for each year the license has lapsed. Effective immediately.

LRB104 04491 LNS 14518 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-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,
14 unless otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds
15 a 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. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if
22 a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the
23 State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon
4 (i) payment to the State Board of Education by the applicant of
5 the lesser of a \$50 penalty or a \$10 penalty for each year the
6 license has lapsed or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by
7 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
8 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
9 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's
10 endorsement areas. Any and all back fees, including without
11 limitation registration fees owed from the time of expiration
12 of the license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid
13 and kept in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this
14 Code concerning an institute fund and the provisions in
15 Article 21B of this Code concerning fees and requirements for
16 registration. Licenses not registered in accordance with
17 Section 21B-40 of this Code shall lapse after a period of 6
18 months from the expiration of the last year of registration or
19 on January 1 of the fiscal year following initial issuance of
20 the license. An unregistered license is invalid after
21 September 1 for employment and performance of services in an
22 Illinois public or State-operated school or cooperative and in
23 a charter school. Any license or endorsement may be
24 voluntarily surrendered by the license holder. A voluntarily
25 surrendered license shall be treated as a revoked license. An
26 Educator License with Stipulations with only a

1 paraprofessional endorsement does not lapse.

2 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
3 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
4 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
5 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
6 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
7 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
8 this Code, per fiscal year.

9 (c-5) All licenses issued by the State Board of Education
10 under this Article that expire on June 30, 2020 and have not
11 been renewed by the end of the 2020 renewal period shall be
12 extended for one year and shall expire on June 30, 2021.

13 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
14 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
15 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
16 professional development plan each year. The plan shall
17 address one or more of the endorsements that are required of
18 his or her educator position if the licensee is employed and
19 performing services in an Illinois public or State-operated
20 school or cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a
21 charter school, the plan shall address that endorsement or
22 those endorsements most closely related to his or her educator
23 position. Licensees employed and performing services in any
24 other Illinois schools may participate in the renewal
25 requirements by adhering to the same process.

26 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the

1 licensee's professional development activities shall align
2 with one or more of the following criteria:

3 (1) activities are of a type that engages participants
4 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
5 discovery, and application as they relate to student
6 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

7 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
8 performance;

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

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

12 (5) higher education coursework.

13 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
14 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
15 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into
16 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
17 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
18 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
19 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
20 activities:

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

25 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
26 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not

1 working in a position requiring such endorsement is not
2 required to complete Illinois Administrators' Academy
3 courses, as described in Article 2 of this Code. Such
4 licensees must complete one Illinois Administrators'
5 Academy course within one year after returning to a
6 position that requires the administrative endorsement.

7 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
8 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
9 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
10 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
11 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
12 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
13 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
14 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.
15 However, for the 2021-2022 school year only, a licensee
16 under this paragraph (3) is not required to complete an
17 Illinois Administrators' Academy course.

18 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
19 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
20 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
21 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order
22 to renew the license.

23 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
24 require educator licensure or working in a position for
25 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
26 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration

1 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
2 license.

3 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
4 from a State of Illinois retirement system shall be listed
5 as retired, and the license shall be maintained in retired
6 status. For any renewal cycle in which a licensee retires
7 during the renewal cycle, the licensee must complete
8 professional development activities on a prorated basis
9 depending on the number of years during the renewal cycle
10 the educator held an active license. If a licensee retires
11 during a renewal cycle, the license status must be updated
12 using ELIS indicating that the licensee wishes to maintain
13 the license in retired status and the licensee must show
14 proof of completion of professional development activities
15 on a prorated basis for all years of that renewal cycle for
16 which the license was active. An individual with a license
17 in retired status shall not be required to complete
18 professional development activities until returning to a
19 position that requires educator licensure. Upon returning
20 to work in a position that requires the Professional
21 Educator License, the license status shall immediately be
22 updated using ELIS and the licensee shall complete renewal
23 requirements for that year. A retired teacher, even if
24 returning to a position that requires educator licensure,
25 shall not be required to pay registration fees. A license
26 in retired status cannot lapse. Beginning on January 6,

1 2017 (the effective date of Public Act 99-920) through
2 December 31, 2017, any licensee who has retired and whose
3 license has lapsed for failure to renew as provided in
4 this Section may reinstate that license and maintain it in
5 retired status upon providing proof to the State Board of
6 Education using ELIS that the licensee is retired and is
7 not working in a position that requires a Professional
8 Educator License.

9 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional
10 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
11 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
12 minimum professional development hours required in this
13 Section prior to September 1 of that year. Professional
14 development hours used to fulfill the minimum required
15 hours for a renewal cycle may be used for only one renewal
16 cycle. For any fiscal year or renewal cycle in which an
17 Illinois Administrators' Academy course was required but
18 not completed, the licensee shall complete any missed
19 Illinois Administrators' Academy courses prior to
20 September 1 of that year. The licensee may complete all
21 deficient hours and Illinois Administrators' Academy
22 courses while continuing to work in a position that
23 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

24 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the
25 professional development renewal requirements set forth in
26 this Section at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is

1 ineligible to register his or her license and may submit
2 an appeal to the State Superintendent of Education for
3 reinstatement of the license.

4 (9) If professional development opportunities were
5 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
6 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
7 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
8 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
9 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
10 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
11 during the extension period.

12 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
13 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act
14 98-610) shall commence the annual renewal process with the
15 first scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013
16 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610).

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

26 (e-5) The number of professional development hours

1 required under subsection (e) is reduced by 20% for any
2 renewal cycle that includes the 2021-2022 school year.

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

5 (f-5) The State Board of Education shall conduct random
6 audits of licensees to verify a licensee's fulfillment of the
7 professional development hours required under this Section.
8 Upon completion of a random audit, if it is determined by the
9 State Board of Education that the licensee did not complete
10 the required number of professional development hours or did
11 not provide sufficient proof of completion, the licensee shall
12 be notified that his or her license has lapsed. A license that
13 has lapsed under this subsection may be reinstated as provided
14 in subsection (b).

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

18 (1) The State Board of Education.

19 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
20 service centers.

21 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
22 the following groups that are approved by the State
23 Superintendent of Education:

24 (A) school administrators;

25 (B) principals;

26 (C) school business officials;

1 (D) teachers, including special education
2 teachers;

3 (E) school boards;

4 (F) school districts;

5 (G) parents; and

6 (H) school service personnel.

7 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
8 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
9 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
10 to the Public Community College Act.

11 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
12 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
13 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
14 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
15 education or special education services.

16 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
17 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has
18 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
19 of Education to provide professional development services
20 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
21 districts, teachers, or administrators.

22 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
23 commissions.

24 (8) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
25 Disposition of Property Act.

26 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this

1 Section shall make available professional development
2 opportunities that satisfy at least one of the following:

3 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
4 district leaders who guide continuous professional
5 development;

6 (2) improve the learning of students;

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

9 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

10 (5) provide educators with research-based
11 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
12 rigorous academic standards;

13 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
14 types of classroom assessments;

15 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
16 intended goals;

17 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
18 collaborate;

19 (9) prepare educators to apply research to decision
20 making;

21 (10) provide educators with training on inclusive
22 practices in the classroom that examines instructional and
23 behavioral strategies that improve academic and
24 social-emotional outcomes for all students, with or
25 without disabilities, in a general education setting; or

26 (11) beginning on July 1, 2022, provide educators with

1 training on the physical and mental health needs of
2 students, student safety, educator ethics, professional
3 conduct, and other topics that address the well-being of
4 students and improve the academic and social-emotional
5 outcomes of students.

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

8 (1) align professional development activities to the
9 State-approved national standards for professional
10 learning;

11 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
12 Illinois licensure renewal;

13 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
14 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
15 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
16 learning or school improvement;

17 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
18 activities;

19 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
20 completion of activities;

21 (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number
22 (IEIN) for each educator during each professional
23 development activity; and

24 (7) beginning on July 1, 2019, register annually with
25 the State Board of Education prior to offering any
26 professional development opportunities in the current

1 fiscal year.

2 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
3 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school
4 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of
5 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of
6 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for
7 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The
8 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of
9 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this
10 Section or administrative rules are not being met.

11 (1) (Blank).

12 (2) Approved providers shall comply with the
13 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by
14 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education
15 demonstrating how the professional development activities
16 impacted one or more of the following:

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

19 (B) educator and student social and emotional
20 growth; or

21 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
22 plans.

23 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
24 the data collected by the State Board of Education,
25 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
26 centers in audits conducted under this subsection (j) to

1 determine if the approved provider has met the criteria
2 and should continue to be an approved provider or if
3 further action should be taken as provided in rules.

4 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
5 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
6 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
7 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed
8 and entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
9 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
10 debit card.

11 (l) Any professional educator licensee endorsed for school
12 support personnel who is employed and performing services in
13 Illinois public schools and who holds an active and current
14 professional license issued by the Department of Financial and
15 Professional Regulation or a national certification board, as
16 approved by the State Board of Education, related to the
17 endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License shall
18 be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
19 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
20 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
21 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who
22 does not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial
23 and Professional Regulation shall complete professional
24 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
25 Educator License provided for in this Section.

26 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and

1 Licensure Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of
2 notice from the State Superintendent of Education that a
3 license will not be renewed based upon failure to complete the
4 requirements of this Section. A licensee may appeal that
5 decision to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
6 in a manner prescribed by rule.

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

11 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
12 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
13 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
14 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
15 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
16 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
17 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
18 consist of the following:

19 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
20 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
21 if applicable;

22 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
23 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
24 statement of assurance for renewal; and

25 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
26 nonrenewal of the license.

1 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
2 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding
3 license renewal by certified mail, return receipt
4 requested, no later than 30 days after reaching a
5 decision. Upon receipt of notification of renewal, the
6 licensee, using ELIS, shall pay the applicable
7 registration fee for the next cycle using a form of credit
8 or debit card.

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

11 (Source: P.A. 102-676, eff. 12-3-21; 102-710, eff. 4-27-22;
12 102-730, eff. 5-6-22; 102-852, eff. 5-13-22; 103-154, eff.
13 6-30-23; 103-780, eff. 8-2-24.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.