

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-25 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-25)

7 Sec. 21B-25. Endorsement on licenses. All licenses issued
8 under paragraph (1) of Section 21B-20 of this Code shall be
9 specifically endorsed by the State Board of Education for each
10 content area, school support area, and administrative area for
11 which the holder of the license is qualified. Recognized
12 institutions approved to offer educator preparation programs
13 shall be trained to add endorsements to licenses issued to
14 applicants who meet all of the requirements for the endorsement
15 or endorsements, including passing any required tests. The
16 State Superintendent of Education shall randomly audit
17 institutions to ensure that all rules and standards are being
18 followed for entitlement or when endorsements are being
19 recommended.

20 (1) The State Board of Education, in consultation with
21 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall
22 establish, by rule, the grade level and subject area
23 endorsements to be added to the Professional Educator

1 License. These rules shall outline the requirements for
2 obtaining each endorsement.

3 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content
4 area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
6 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the
7 requirements for the following endorsements:

8 (A) General administrative endorsement. A general
9 administrative endorsement shall be added to a
10 Professional Educator License, provided that an
11 approved program has been completed. An individual
12 holding a general administrative endorsement may work
13 only as a principal or assistant principal or in a
14 related or similar position, as determined by the State
15 Superintendent of Education, in consultation with the
16 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

17 Beginning on September 1, 2014, the general
18 administrative endorsement shall no longer be issued
19 except to individuals who completed all coursework
20 requirements for the receipt of the general
21 administrative endorsement by September 1, 2014, who
22 have completed all testing requirements by June 30,
23 2016, and who apply for the endorsement on or before
24 June 30, 2016. Individuals who hold a valid and
25 registered administrative certificate with a general
26 administrative endorsement issued under Section 21-7.1

1 of this Code or a Professional Educator License with a
2 general administrative endorsement issued prior to
3 September 1, 2014 and who have served for at least one
4 full year during the 5 years prior in a position
5 requiring a general administrative endorsement shall,
6 upon request to the State Board of Education and
7 through July 1, 2015, have their respective general
8 administrative endorsement converted to a principal
9 endorsement on the Professional Educator License.
10 Candidates shall not be admitted to an approved general
11 administrative preparation program after September 1,
12 2012.

13 All other individuals holding a valid and
14 registered administrative certificate with a general
15 administrative endorsement issued pursuant to Section
16 21-7.1 of this Code or a general administrative
17 endorsement on a Professional Educator License issued
18 prior to September 1, 2014 shall have the general
19 administrative endorsement converted to a principal
20 endorsement on a Professional Educator License upon
21 request to the State Board of Education and by
22 completing one of the following pathways:

23 (i) Passage of the State principal assessment
24 developed by the State Board of Education.

25 (ii) Through July 1, 2019, completion of an
26 Illinois Educators' Academy course designated by

1 the State Superintendent of Education.

2 (iii) Completion of a principal preparation
3 program established and approved pursuant to
4 Section 21B-60 of this Code and applicable rules.

5 Individuals who do not choose to convert the
6 general administrative endorsement on the
7 administrative certificate issued pursuant to Section
8 21-7.1 of this Code or on the Professional Educator
9 License shall continue to be able to serve in any
10 position previously allowed under paragraph (2) of
11 subsection (e) of Section 21-7.1 of this Code.

12 The general administrative endorsement on the
13 Professional Educator License is available only to
14 individuals who, prior to September 1, 2014, had such
15 an endorsement on the administrative certificate
16 issued pursuant to Section 21-7.1 of this Code or who
17 already have a Professional Educator License and have
18 completed a general administrative program and who do
19 not choose to convert the general administrative
20 endorsement to a principal endorsement pursuant to the
21 options in this Section.

22 (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement
23 shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of
24 any holder who qualifies by having all of the
25 following:

26 (i) Successful completion of a principal

1 preparation program approved in accordance with
2 Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable
3 rules.

4 (ii) At least 4 total years of teaching or 4
5 total years of working in the capacity of school
6 support personnel in an Illinois public school or
7 nonpublic school recognized by the State Board of
8 Education, in a school under the supervision of the
9 Department of Corrections, or in an out-of-state
10 public school or out-of-state nonpublic school
11 meeting out-of-state recognition standards
12 comparable to those approved by the State
13 Superintendent of Education; however, the State
14 Board of Education, in consultation with the State
15 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall
16 allow, by rules, for fewer than 4 years of
17 experience based on meeting standards set forth in
18 such rules, including without limitation a review
19 of performance evaluations or other evidence of
20 demonstrated qualifications.

21 (iii) A master's degree or higher from a
22 regionally accredited college or university.

23 (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A
24 chief school business official endorsement shall be
25 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
26 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or

1 higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience
2 in school business management or 2 years of
3 university-approved practical experience, and a
4 minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a
5 program approved by the State Board of Education for
6 the preparation of school business administrators and
7 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief
8 school business official endorsement may also be
9 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
10 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in
11 business administration, finance, accounting, or
12 public administration and who completes an additional
13 6 semester hours of internship in school business
14 management from a regionally accredited institution of
15 higher education and passes the applicable State
16 tests. This endorsement shall be required for any
17 individual employed as a chief school business
18 official.

19 (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent
20 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional
21 Educator License of any holder who has completed a
22 program approved by the State Board of Education for
23 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had
24 at least 2 years of experience employed full-time in a
25 general administrative position or as a full-time
26 principal, director of special education, or chief

1 school business official in the public schools or in a
2 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief
3 administrator is required to have the licensure
4 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this
5 State and where a majority of the teachers are required
6 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a
7 public school in this State, and has passed the
8 required State tests; or of any holder who has
9 completed a program that is not an Illinois-approved
10 educator preparation program at an Illinois
11 institution of higher education and that has
12 recognition standards comparable to those approved by
13 the State Superintendent of Education and holds the
14 general administrative, principal, or chief school
15 business official endorsement and who has had 2 years
16 of experience as a principal, director of special
17 education, or chief school business official while
18 holding a valid educator license or certificate
19 comparable in validity and educational and experience
20 requirements and has passed the appropriate State
21 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The
22 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to
23 serve only as a superintendent or assistant
24 superintendent.

25 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the
26 policy of this State to improve the quality of

1 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway
2 for teachers interested in serving in leadership
3 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of
4 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
5 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher
6 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons
7 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of
8 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader
9 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for
10 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may
11 qualify to serve in such positions as department
12 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction
13 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by
14 the district. The endorsement shall be available to
15 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator
16 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a
17 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have
18 completed a program of study that has been approved by
19 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
20 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and
21 (iv) have successfully demonstrated competencies as
22 defined by rule.

23 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in
24 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement may
25 evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of this
26 Code, provided that the individual has completed the

1 evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of this
2 Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate
3 personnel under the respective school district's
4 collective bargaining agreement.

5 The State Board of Education, in consultation with
6 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
7 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish
8 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program
9 and to specify the positions for which this endorsement
10 shall be required.

11 (F) Special education endorsement. A special
12 education endorsement in one or more areas shall be
13 affixed to a Professional Educator License for any
14 individual that meets those requirements established
15 by the State Board of Education in rules. Special
16 education endorsement areas shall include without
17 limitation the following:

- 18 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;
- 19 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;
- 20 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;
- 21 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;
- 22 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing;
- 23 (vi) Early Childhood Special Education; and
- 24 (vii) Director of Special Education.

25 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,
26 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the

1 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may
2 add additional areas of special education by rule.

3 (G) School support personnel endorsement. School
4 support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but
5 are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and
6 family therapist, school psychologist, school speech
7 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school
8 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who
9 are not teachers or administrators, but still require
10 licensure to work in an instructional support position
11 in a public or State-operated elementary school,
12 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement
13 with a governing body or board of control or a charter
14 school operating in compliance with the Charter
15 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement
16 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License
17 and shall meet all of the requirements established in
18 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).
19 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of
20 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other
21 Professional Educator License, including teacher
22 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

23 Beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on April
24 30, 2014, a person holding a Professional Educator
25 License with a school speech and language pathologist
26 (teaching) endorsement may exchange his or her school

1 speech and language pathologist (teaching) endorsement
2 for a school speech and language pathologist
3 (non-teaching) endorsement through application to the
4 State Board of Education. There shall be no cost for
5 this exchange.

6 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-623, eff. 7-22-16;
7 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-267, eff.
8 8-22-17; 100-288, eff. 8-24-17; revised 9-25-17.)