



## 100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2017 and 2018

SB1991

Introduced 2/10/2017, by Sen. Scott M. Bennett

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-30

Amends the School Code. Provides that for an applicant seeking a professional educator license who is enrolled in a program of study in an area of career or technical education defined as an area of identified staff shortages, as defined in Section 65.25 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, or a career and technical educator endorsement on an educator license with stipulations, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall adopt a test of work proficiency.

LRB100 11392 MLM 21801 b

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) This Section applies beginning on July 1, 2012.

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 required  
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations  
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional  
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of  
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt  
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this  
18 Section.

19 (c) Applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or  
20 an Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass  
21 a test of basic skills or a test of work proficiency, as  
22 applicable, before the license is issued, unless the  
23 endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage

1 of the test. All applicants completing Illinois-approved,  
2 teacher education or school service personnel preparation  
3 programs shall be required to pass the State Board of  
4 Education's recognized test of basic skills or a test of work  
5 proficiency, as applicable, prior to starting their student  
6 teaching or starting the final semester of their internship,  
7 unless required earlier at the discretion of the recognized,  
8 Illinois institution in which they are completing their  
9 approved program. An individual who passes a test of basic  
10 skills does not need to do so again for subsequent endorsements  
11 or other educator licenses. For an applicant seeking a  
12 Professional Educator License who is enrolled in a program of  
13 study in an area of career or technical education defined as an  
14 area of identified staff shortages, as defined in Section 65.25  
15 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, or a career and  
16 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
17 Stipulations, the State Board of Education, in consultation  
18 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall  
19 adopt a test of work proficiency.

20 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be  
21 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area  
22 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There  
23 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall  
24 be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record  
25 until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

26 (e) (Blank). ~~and completing their student teaching~~

1 ~~experience no later than August 31, 2015 Prior to September 1,~~  
2 ~~2015, passage The APT shall be available through August 31,~~  
3 ~~2020.~~

4 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, beginning  
5 on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher  
6 preparation programs in this State and all candidates subject  
7 to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass an  
8 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by  
9 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
10 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. All recognized  
11 institutions offering approved teacher preparation programs  
12 must begin phasing in the approved teacher performance  
13 assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

14 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and  
15 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that  
16 from time to time are designated by the State Board of  
17 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
18 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an  
19 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State  
20 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
21 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a  
22 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and  
23 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess  
24 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must  
25 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person  
26 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,

1 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the  
2 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score  
3 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of  
4 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
5 and Licensure Board. The tests shall be administered not fewer  
6 than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be designated  
7 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
8 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

9 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess  
10 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of  
11 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under  
12 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code  
13 in the English language and in the language of the transitional  
14 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

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

18 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the  
19 testing requirements under this Section shall include without  
20 limitation provisions governing test selection, test  
21 validation and determination of a passing score,  
22 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,  
23 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the  
24 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special  
25 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop such  
26 rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to year

1 in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.  
2 (Source: P.A. 98-361, eff. 1-1-14; 98-581, eff. 8-27-13;  
3 98-756, eff. 7-16-14; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-657, eff.  
4 7-28-16; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; revised 1-23-17.)