

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 before the license is issued, unless the
22 endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage
23 of the test. All applicants completing Illinois-approved,

1 teacher education or school service personnel preparation
2 programs shall be required to pass the State Board of
3 Education's recognized test of basic skills prior to starting
4 their student teaching or starting the final semester of their
5 internship, ~~unless required earlier at the discretion of the~~
6 ~~recognized, Illinois institution in which they are completing~~
7 ~~their approved program.~~ An institution of higher learning, as
8 defined in the Higher Education Student Assistance Act, may not
9 require an applicant to complete the State Board's recognized
10 test of basic skills prior to the semester before student
11 teaching or prior to the semester before starting the final
12 semester of an internship. An individual who passes a test of
13 basic skills does not need to do so again for subsequent
14 endorsements or other educator licenses.

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

21 (e) (Blank). ~~and completing their student teaching~~
22 ~~experience no later than August 31, 2015 Prior to September 1,~~
23 ~~2015, passage The APT shall be available through August 31,~~
24 ~~2020.~~

25 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, beginning
26 on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing teacher

1 preparation programs in this State and all candidates subject
2 to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass an
3 evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness approved by
4 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
5 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. All recognized
6 institutions offering approved teacher preparation programs
7 must begin phasing in the approved teacher performance
8 assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

9 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and
10 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that
11 from time to time are designated by the State Board of
12 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
13 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an
14 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State
15 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
16 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a
17 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and
18 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess
19 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must
20 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person
21 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,
22 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the
23 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score
24 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of
25 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
26 and Licensure Board. The tests shall be administered not fewer

1 than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be designated
2 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
3 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

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

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

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

23 (Source: P.A. 98-361, eff. 1-1-14; 98-581, eff. 8-27-13;
24 98-756, eff. 7-16-14; 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-657, eff.
25 7-28-16; 99-920, eff. 1-6-17; revised 1-23-17.)

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

1 becoming law.