

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-50 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

7 Sec. 21B-50. Alternative educator licensure program.

8 (a) There is established an alternative educator licensure  
9 program, to be known as the Alternative Educator Licensure  
10 Program for Teachers.

11 (b) The ~~Beginning on January 1, 2013, the~~ Alternative  
12 Educator Licensure Program for Teachers may be offered by a  
13 recognized institution approved to offer educator preparation  
14 programs by the State Board of Education, in consultation with  
15 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

16 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

17 (1) A course of study that at a minimum includes  
18 instructional planning; instructional strategies,  
19 including special education, reading, and English language  
20 learning; classroom management; and the assessment of  
21 students and use of data to drive instruction.

22 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's  
23 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a

1 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must  
2 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an  
3 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to  
4 enter the residency and must complete additional program  
5 requirements that address required State and national  
6 standards, pass the assessment of professional teaching  
7 before entering the second residency year, as required  
8 under phase (3) of this subsection (b), and be recommended  
9 by the principal or qualified equivalent of a principal, as  
10 required under subsection (d) of this Section, and the  
11 program coordinator to continue with the second year of the  
12 residency.

13 (3) A second year of residency, which shall include the  
14 candidate's assignment to a full-time teaching position  
15 for one school year. The candidate must be assigned an  
16 experienced teacher to act as a mentor and coach the  
17 candidate through the second year of residency.

18 (4) A comprehensive assessment of the candidate's  
19 teaching effectiveness, as evaluated by the principal or  
20 qualified equivalent of a principal, as required under  
21 subsection (d) of this Section, and the program  
22 coordinator, at the end of the second year of residency. If  
23 there is disagreement between the 2 evaluators about the  
24 candidate's teaching effectiveness, the candidate may  
25 complete one additional year of residency teaching under a  
26 professional development plan developed by the principal

1        or qualified equivalent and the preparation program. At the  
2        completion of the third year, a candidate must have  
3        positive evaluations and a recommendation for full  
4        licensure from both the principal or qualified equivalent  
5        and the program coordinator or no Professional Educator  
6        License shall be issued.

7        Successful completion of the program shall be deemed to  
8        satisfy any other practice or student teaching and content  
9        matter requirements established by law.

10        (c) An alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
11        Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 2 years of  
12        teaching in the public schools, including without limitation a  
13        preschool educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code  
14        or charter school, or in a State-recognized nonpublic school in  
15        which the chief administrator is required to have the licensure  
16        necessary to be a principal in a public school in this State  
17        and in which a majority of the teachers are required to have  
18        the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public school in  
19        this State, but may be renewed for a third year if needed to  
20        complete the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
21        Teachers. The endorsement shall be issued only once to an  
22        individual who meets all of the following requirements:

23                (1) Has graduated from a regionally accredited college  
24                or university with a bachelor's degree or higher.

25                (2) Has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or  
26                greater on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on another scale.

1           (3) Has completed a major in the content area if  
2 seeking a middle or secondary level endorsement or, if  
3 seeking an early childhood, elementary, or special  
4 education endorsement, has completed a major in the content  
5 area of reading, English/language arts, mathematics, or  
6 one of the sciences. If the individual does not have a  
7 major in a content area for any level of teaching, he or  
8 she must submit transcripts to the State Board  
9 ~~Superintendent~~ of Education to be reviewed for  
10 equivalency.

11           (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection  
12 (b) of this Section.

13           (5) Has passed a test of basic skills and content area  
14 test required for the specific endorsement for admission  
15 into the program, as required under Section 21B-30 of this  
16 Code.

17           A candidate possessing the alternative provisional  
18 educator endorsement may receive a salary, benefits, and any  
19 other terms of employment offered to teachers in the school who  
20 are members of an exclusive bargaining representative, if any,  
21 but a school is not required to provide these benefits during  
22 the years of residency if the candidate is serving only as a  
23 co-teacher. If the candidate is serving as the teacher of  
24 record, the candidate must receive a salary, benefits, and any  
25 other terms of employment. Residency experiences must not be  
26 counted towards tenure.

1 (d) The recognized institution offering the Alternative  
2 Educator Licensure Program for Teachers must partner with a  
3 school district, including without limitation a preschool  
4 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code or  
5 charter school, or a State-recognized, nonpublic school in this  
6 State in which the chief administrator is required to have the  
7 licensure necessary to be a principal in a public school in  
8 this State and in which a majority of the teachers are required  
9 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public  
10 school in this State. A recognized institution that partners  
11 with a public school district administering a preschool  
12 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code must  
13 require a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates in the  
14 program. A recognized institution that partners with an  
15 eligible entity administering a preschool educational program  
16 under Section 2-3.71 of this Code and that is not a public  
17 school district must require a principal or qualified  
18 equivalent of a principal to recommend or evaluate candidates  
19 in the program. The program presented for approval by the State  
20 Board of Education must demonstrate the supports that are to be  
21 provided to assist the provisional teacher during the 2-year  
22 residency period. These supports must provide additional  
23 contact hours with mentors during the first year of residency.

24 (e) Upon completion of the 4 phases outlined in subsection  
25 (b) of this Section and all assessments required under Section  
26 21B-30 of this Code, an individual shall receive a Professional

1 Educator License.

2 (f) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
3 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
4 rules as may be necessary to establish and implement the  
5 Alternative Educator Licensure Program for Teachers.

6 (Source: P.A. 99-58, eff. 7-16-15.)