

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 a \$50 ~~\$500~~ penalty ~~to the State Board of Education~~ or (ii) the
6 demonstration of proficiency by completing 9 semester hours of
7 coursework from a regionally accredited institution of higher
8 education in the content area that most aligns with one or more
9 of the educator's endorsement areas. Any and all back fees,
10 including without limitation registration fees owed from the
11 time of expiration of the license until the date of
12 reinstatement, shall be paid and kept in accordance with the
13 provisions in Article 3 of this Code concerning an institute
14 fund and the provisions in Article 21B of this Code concerning
15 fees and requirements for registration. Licenses not
16 registered in accordance with Section 21B-40 of this Code
17 shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the expiration of
18 the last year of registration or on January 1 of the fiscal
19 year following initial issuance of the license. An
20 unregistered license is invalid after September 1 for
21 employment and performance of services in an Illinois public
22 or State-operated school or cooperative and in a charter
23 school. Any license or endorsement may be voluntarily
24 surrendered by the license holder. A voluntarily surrendered
25 license shall be treated as a revoked license. An Educator
26 License with Stipulations with only a paraprofessional

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

20 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
21 require educator licensure or working in a position for
22 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
23 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
24 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
25 license.

26 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits

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

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

1 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

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

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

15 (1) The State Board of Education.

16 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
17 service centers.

18 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
19 the following groups that are approved by the State
20 Superintendent of Education:

21 (A) school administrators;

22 (B) principals;

23 (C) school business officials;

24 (D) teachers, including special education
25 teachers;

26 (E) school boards;

1 (F) school districts;

2 (G) parents; and

3 (H) school service personnel.

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

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

13 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
14 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has
15 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
16 of Education to provide professional development services
17 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
18 districts, teachers, or administrators.

19 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
20 commissions.

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

23 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this
24 Section shall make available professional development
25 opportunities that satisfy at least one of the following:

26 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and

1 district leaders who guide continuous professional
2 development;

3 (2) improve the learning of students;

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

6 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

7 (5) provide educators with research-based
8 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
9 rigorous academic standards;

10 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
11 types of classroom assessments;

12 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
13 intended goals;

14 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
15 collaborate;

16 (9) prepare educators to apply research to decision
17 making; or

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

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

25 (1) align professional development activities to the
26 State-approved national standards for professional

1 learning;

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

4 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
5 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
6 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
7 learning or school improvement;

8 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
9 activities;

10 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
11 completion of activities;

12 (6) request an Illinois Educator Identification Number
13 (IEIN) for each educator during each professional
14 development activity; and

15 (7) beginning on July 1, 2019, register annually with
16 the State Board of Education prior to offering any
17 professional development opportunities in the current
18 fiscal year.

19 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
20 audits of a subset of approved providers, except for school
21 districts, which shall be audited by regional offices of
22 education and intermediate service centers. The State Board of
23 Education shall ensure that each approved provider, except for
24 a school district, is audited at least once every 5 years. The
25 State Board of Education may conduct more frequent audits of
26 providers if evidence suggests the requirements of this

1 Section or administrative rules are not being met.

2 (1) (Blank).

3 (2) Approved providers shall comply with the
4 requirements in subsections (h) and (i) of this Section by
5 annually submitting data to the State Board of Education
6 demonstrating how the professional development activities
7 impacted one or more of the following:

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

10 (B) educator and student social and emotional
11 growth; or

12 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
13 plans.

14 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
15 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
16 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
17 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider
18 has met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
19 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
20 in rules.

21 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
22 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
23 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
24 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed
25 and entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
26 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or

1 debit card.

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

17 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and
18 Licensure Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of
19 notice from the State Superintendent of Education that a
20 license will not be renewed based upon failure to complete the
21 requirements of this Section. A licensee may appeal that
22 decision to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
23 in a manner prescribed by rule.

24 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
25 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
26 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the

1 State Board of Education.

2 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
3 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
4 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
5 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
6 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
7 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
8 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
9 consist of the following:

10 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
11 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
12 if applicable;

13 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
14 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
15 statement of assurance for renewal; and

16 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
17 nonrenewal of the license.

18 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
19 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding
20 license renewal by certified mail, return receipt
21 requested, no later than 30 days after reaching a
22 decision. Upon receipt of notification of renewal, the
23 licensee, using ELIS, shall pay the applicable
24 registration fee for the next cycle using a form of credit
25 or debit card.

26 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be

1 necessary to implement this Section.

2 (Source: P.A. 100-13, eff. 7-1-17; 100-339, eff. 8-25-17;
3 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18; 101-85, eff.
4 1-1-20; 101-531, eff. 8-23-19; 101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
6 becoming law.