

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) (Blank).

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

19 (c) (Blank).

20 (c-5) The State Board must adopt rules to implement a
21 paraprofessional competency test. This test would allow an
22 applicant seeking an Educator License with Stipulations with a
23 paraprofessional educator endorsement to obtain the

1 endorsement if he or she passes the test and meets the other
2 requirements of subparagraph (J) of paragraph (2) of Section
3 21B-20 other than the higher education requirements.

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

10 (e) (Blank).

11 (f) Except as otherwise provided in this Article,
12 beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates completing
13 teacher preparation programs in this State and all candidates
14 subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a
15 teacher performance assessment approved by the State Board of
16 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
17 and Licensure Board. A candidate may not be required to submit
18 test materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation,
19 an individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is
20 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district
21 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after
22 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a
23 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher
24 performance assessment under this subsection.

25 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher
26 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to

1 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in
2 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
3 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing
4 organization or tests designed by the State Board of
5 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
6 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall
7 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The
8 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no
9 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis
10 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to
11 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The
12 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State
13 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
14 Preparation and Licensure Board. The tests shall be
15 administered not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and
16 place as may be designated by the State Board of Education, in
17 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
18 Board.

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

26 (h) Except as provided in Section 34-6 of this Code, the

1 provisions of this Section shall apply equally in any school
2 district subject to Article 34 of this Code.

3 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
4 testing requirements under this Section shall include without
5 limitation provisions governing test selection, test
6 validation and determination of a passing score,
7 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
8 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
9 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
10 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
11 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to
12 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.
13 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-863, eff. 8-14-18;
14 100-932, eff. 8-17-18; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff.
15 8-7-19; 101-594, eff. 12-5-19.)

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.