

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 (d-5) The State Board shall consult with any applicable
11 vendors within 90 days after July 28, 2023 (the effective date
12 of Public Act 103-402) ~~this amendatory Act of the 103rd~~
13 ~~General Assembly~~ to develop a plan to transition the test of
14 content area knowledge in the endorsement area of elementary
15 education, grades one through 6, by July 1, 2026 to a content
16 area test that contains testing elements that cover
17 bilingualism, biliteracy, oral language development,
18 foundational literacy skills, and developmentally appropriate
19 higher-order comprehension and on which a valid and reliable
20 language and literacy subscore can be determined. The State
21 Board shall base its rules concerning the passing subscore on
22 the language and literacy portion of the test on the
23 recommended cut-score determined in the formal
24 standard-setting process. Candidates need not achieve a
25 particular subscore in the area of language and literacy. The
26 State Board shall aggregate and publish the number of

1 candidates in each preparation program who take the test and
2 the number who pass the language and literacy portion.

3 (e) (Blank).

4 (e-5) The State Board shall make available a content area
5 test for applicants seeking a State license to teach in any of
6 grades one through 6. The test shall include foundational
7 teaching skills and methods that are developmentally and
8 educationally appropriate for students in grades one through
9 6.

10 Subject to vendor availability, for all content area tests
11 that include content area questions for college algebra,
12 college statistics, and music theory, contracts entered into
13 after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 103rd
14 General Assembly with applicable testing vendors shall allow
15 for questions regarding college algebra, college statistics,
16 and music theory to be removed from the content area test. If
17 those questions cannot be removed by any available vendors,
18 then, subject to vendor availability, the State Board shall
19 allow for the overall score for the content area test to not
20 include the scores for college algebra, college statistics,
21 and music theory.

22 The State Board shall allow for the retaking of only the
23 subsections of the test that were failed previously. The
24 subsections with the highest score each time the content test
25 is taken shall count on the overall score.

26 (f) Beginning on August 4, 2023 (the effective date of

1 ~~Public Act 103-488) this amendatory Act of the 103rd General~~
2 ~~Assembly~~ through August 31, 2025, no candidate completing a
3 teacher preparation program in this State or candidate subject
4 to Section 21B-35 of this Code is required to pass a teacher
5 performance assessment. Except as otherwise provided in this
6 Article, beginning on September 1, 2015 until August 4, 2023
7 ~~(the effective date of Public Act 103-488) this amendatory Act~~
8 ~~of the 103rd General Assembly~~ and beginning again on September
9 1, 2025, all candidates completing teacher preparation
10 programs in this State and all candidates subject to Section
11 21B-35 of this Code are required to pass a teacher performance
12 assessment approved by the State Board of Education, in
13 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
14 Board. A candidate may not be required to submit test
15 materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation, an
16 individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is
17 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district
18 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after
19 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a
20 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher
21 performance assessment under this subsection.

22 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is
23 created to evaluate potential performance-based and objective
24 teacher performance assessment systems for implementation
25 across all educator preparation programs in this State, with
26 the intention of ensuring consistency across programs and

1 supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system.
2 Members appointed to the Task Force must reflect the racial,
3 ethnic, and geographic diversity of this State. The Task Force
4 shall consist of all of the following members:

5 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
6 President of the Senate.

7 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the
8 Minority Leader of the Senate.

9 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

11 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,
12 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of
13 Representatives.

14 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional
15 teachers' organization, appointed by the State
16 Superintendent of Education.

17 (6) One member who represents a different statewide
18 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the
19 State Superintendent of Education.

20 (7) One member from a statewide organization
21 representing school principals, appointed by the State
22 Superintendent of Education.

23 (8) One member from a statewide organization
24 representing regional superintendents of schools,
25 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

26 (9) One member from a statewide organization

1 representing school administrators, appointed by the State
2 Superintendent of Education.

3 (10) One member representing a school district
4 organized under Article 34 of this Code, appointed by the
5 State Superintendent of Education.

6 (11) One member of an association representing rural
7 and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent
8 of Education.

9 (12) One member representing a suburban school
10 district, appointed by the State Superintendent of
11 Education.

12 (13) One member from a statewide organization
13 representing school districts in the southern suburbs of
14 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
15 of Education.

16 (14) One member from a statewide organization
17 representing large unit school districts, appointed by the
18 State Superintendent of Education.

19 (15) One member from a statewide organization
20 representing school districts in the collar counties of
21 the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent
22 of Education.

23 (16) Three members, each representing a different
24 public university in this State and each a current member
25 of the faculty of an approved educator preparation
26 program, appointed by the State Superintendent of

1 Education.

2 (17) Three members, each representing a different
3 4-year nonpublic university or college in this State and
4 each a current member of the faculty of an approved
5 educator preparation program, appointed by the State
6 Superintendent of Education.

7 (18) One member of the Board of Higher Education,
8 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

9 (19) One member representing a statewide policy
10 organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students
11 and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of
12 Education.

13 (20) One member representing a statewide organization
14 focused on research-based education policy to support a
15 school system that prepares all students for college, a
16 career, and democratic citizenship, appointed by the State
17 Superintendent of Education.

18 (21) Two members representing an early childhood
19 advocacy organization, appointed by the State
20 Superintendent of Education.

21 (22) One member representing a statewide organization
22 that partners with educator preparation programs and
23 school districts to support the growth and development of
24 preservice teachers, appointed by the State Superintendent
25 of Education.

26 (23) One member representing a statewide organization

1 that advocates for educational equity and racial justice
2 in schools, appointed by the State Superintendent of
3 Education.

4 (24) One member representing a statewide organization
5 that represents school boards, appointed by the State
6 Superintendent of Education.

7 (25) One member who has, within the last 5 years,
8 served as a cooperating teacher, appointed by the State
9 Superintendent of Education.

10 Members of the Task Force shall serve without
11 compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of
12 the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent
13 meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,
14 who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of
15 Education. The State Board of Education shall provide
16 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

17 On or before August 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report on
18 its work, including recommendations on a teacher performance
19 assessment system in this State, to the State Board of
20 Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is
21 dissolved upon submission of this report.

22 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher
23 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to
24 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in
25 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
26 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing

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

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

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

26 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the

1 testing requirements under this Section shall include, without
2 limitation, provisions governing test selection, test
3 validation, and determination of a passing score,
4 administration of the tests, frequency of administration,
5 applicant fees, frequency of applicants taking the tests, the
6 years for which a score is valid, and appropriate special
7 accommodations. The State Board of Education shall develop
8 such rules as may be needed to ensure uniformity from year to
9 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.
10 (Source: P.A. 102-301, eff. 8-26-21; 103-402, eff. 7-28-23;
11 103-488, eff. 8-4-23; revised 9-1-23.)