

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 Sections  
5 21B-30 and 21B-50 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) Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act  
12 of the 103rd General Assembly through August 31, 2025, no  
13 candidate completing a teacher preparation program in this  
14 State or candidate subject to Section 21B-35 of this Code is  
15 required to pass a teacher performance assessment. Except as  
16 otherwise provided in this Article, beginning on September 1,  
17 2015 until the effective date of this amendatory Act of the  
18 103rd General Assembly and beginning again on September 1,  
19 2025, all candidates completing teacher preparation programs  
20 in this State and all candidates subject to Section 21B-35 of  
21 this Code are required to pass a teacher performance  
22 assessment approved by the State Board of Education, in  
23 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
24 Board. A candidate may not be required to submit test  
25 materials by video submission. Subject to appropriation, an  
26 individual who holds a Professional Educator License and is

1 employed for a minimum of one school year by a school district  
2 designated as Tier 1 under Section 18-8.15 may, after  
3 application to the State Board, receive from the State Board a  
4 refund for any costs associated with completing the teacher  
5 performance assessment under this subsection.

6 (f-5) The Teacher Performance Assessment Task Force is  
7 created to evaluate potential teacher performance assessment  
8 systems for implementation in this State, with the intention  
9 of supporting a thoughtful and well-rounded licensure system  
10 that is performance-based and has consistency across programs  
11 and objectivity. The Task Force shall consist of all of the  
12 following members:

13 (1) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
14 President of the Senate.

15 (2) One member of the Senate, appointed by the  
16 Minority Leader of the Senate.

17 (3) One member of the House of Representatives,  
18 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

19 (4) One member of the House of Representatives,  
20 appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of  
21 Representatives.

22 (5) One member who represents a statewide professional  
23 teachers' organization, appointed by the State  
24 Superintendent of Education.

25 (6) One member who represents a different statewide  
26 professional teachers' organization, appointed by the

1       State Superintendent of Education.

2           (7) One member from a statewide organization  
3       representing school principals, appointed by the State  
4       Superintendent of Education.

5           (8) One member from a statewide organization  
6       representing regional superintendents of schools,  
7       appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

8           (9) One member from a statewide organization  
9       representing school business officials, appointed by the  
10       State Superintendent of Education.

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

14           (11) One member of an association representing rural  
15       and small schools, appointed by the State Superintendent  
16       of Education.

17           (12) One member representing a suburban school  
18       district, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
19       Education.

20           (13) One member from a statewide organization  
21       representing school districts in the southern suburbs of  
22       the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
23       of Education.

24           (14) One member from a statewide organization  
25       representing large unit school districts, appointed by the  
26       State Superintendent of Education.

1           (15) One member from a statewide organization  
2           representing school districts in the collar counties of  
3           the City of Chicago, appointed by the State Superintendent  
4           of Education.

5           (16) Three members, each representing a different  
6           public university in this State, each currently a faculty  
7           member in an approved educator preparation program,  
8           appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

9           (17) Three members, each representing a different  
10          4-year nonpublic university or college in this State, each  
11          currently a faculty member in an approved educator  
12          preparation program, appointed by the State Superintendent  
13          of Education.

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

16          (19) One member representing a statewide policy  
17          organization advocating on behalf of multilingual students  
18          and families, appointed by the State Superintendent of  
19          Education.

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

25          (21) Two members representing an early childhood  
26          advocacy organization, appointed by the State

1 Superintendent of Education.

2 Members of the Task Force shall serve without  
3 compensation. The Task Force shall first meet at the call of  
4 the State Superintendent of Education, and each subsequent  
5 meeting shall be called by the chairperson of the Task Force,  
6 who shall be designated by the State Superintendent of  
7 Education. The State Board of Education shall provide  
8 administrative and other support to the Task Force.

9 On or before August 1, 2024, the Task Force shall report on  
10 its work, including recommendations on a teacher performance  
11 assessment system in this State, to the State Board of  
12 Education and the General Assembly. The Task Force is  
13 dissolved upon submission of this report.

14 (g) The content area knowledge test and the teacher  
15 performance assessment shall be the tests that from time to  
16 time are designated by the State Board of Education, in  
17 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
18 Board, and may be tests prepared by an educational testing  
19 organization or tests designed by the State Board of  
20 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
21 and Licensure Board. The test of content area knowledge shall  
22 assess content knowledge in a specific subject field. The  
23 tests must be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no  
24 person taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis  
25 of race, color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to  
26 the person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The

1 score required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State  
2 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
3 Preparation and Licensure Board. The tests shall be  
4 administered not fewer than 3 times a year at such time and  
5 place as may be designated by the State Board of Education, in  
6 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
7 Board.

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

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

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

1 year in the level of difficulty for each form of an assessment.  
2 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 101-220, eff. 8-7-19;  
3 101-594, eff. 12-5-19; 102-301, eff. 8-26-21.)

4 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

5 Sec. 21B-50. Alternative Educator Licensure Program.

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

9 (b) The Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
10 Teachers may be offered by a recognized institution approved  
11 to offer educator preparation programs by the State Board of  
12 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
13 and Licensure Board.

14 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

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

20 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's  
21 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a  
22 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must  
23 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an  
24 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to  
25 enter the residency and must complete additional program



1 requirements that address required State and national  
2 standards, pass the State Board's teacher performance  
3 assessment, if required under Section 21B-30, no later  
4 than the end of the first semester of the second year of  
5 residency, as required under phase (3) of this subsection  
6 (b), and be recommended by the principal or qualified  
7 equivalent of a principal, as required under subsection  
8 (d) of this Section, and the program coordinator to  
9 continue with the second year of the residency.

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

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

1 licensure from both the principal or qualified equivalent  
2 and the program coordinator or no Professional Educator  
3 License shall be issued.

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

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

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

22 (2) (Blank).

23 (3) Has completed a major in the content area if  
24 seeking a middle or secondary level endorsement or, if  
25 seeking an early childhood, elementary, or special  
26 education endorsement, has completed a major in the

1 content area of reading, English/language arts,  
2 mathematics, or one of the sciences. If the individual  
3 does not have a major in a content area for any level of  
4 teaching, he or she must submit transcripts to the State  
5 Board of Education to be reviewed for equivalency.

6 (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection  
7 (b) of this Section.

8 (5) Has passed a content area test required for the  
9 specific endorsement for admission into the program, as  
10 required under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

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

21 (d) The recognized institution offering the Alternative  
22 Educator Licensure Program for Teachers must partner with a  
23 school district, including without limitation a preschool  
24 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code or  
25 charter school, or a State-recognized, nonpublic school in  
26 this State in which the chief administrator is required to

1 have the licensure necessary to be a principal in a public  
2 school in this State and in which a majority of the teachers  
3 are required to have the licensure necessary to be instructors  
4 in a public school in this State. A recognized institution  
5 that partners with a public school district administering a  
6 preschool educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this  
7 Code must require a principal to recommend or evaluate  
8 candidates in the program. A recognized institution that  
9 partners with an eligible entity administering a preschool  
10 educational program under Section 2-3.71 of this Code and that  
11 is not a public school district must require a principal or  
12 qualified equivalent of a principal to recommend or evaluate  
13 candidates in the program. The program presented for approval  
14 by the State Board of Education must demonstrate the supports  
15 that are to be provided to assist the provisional teacher  
16 during the 2-year residency period. These supports must  
17 provide additional contact hours with mentors during the first  
18 year of residency.

19 (e) Upon completion of the 4 phases outlined in subsection  
20 (b) of this Section and all assessments required under Section  
21 21B-30 of this Code, an individual shall receive a  
22 Professional Educator License.

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

1 (Source: P.A. 100-596, eff. 7-1-18; 100-822, eff. 1-1-19;  
2 101-220, eff. 8-7-19; 101-570, eff. 8-23-19; 101-643, eff.  
3 6-18-20; 101-654, eff. 3-8-21.)

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