

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 21-7.1 and by adding Section 21-7.6 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-7.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-7.1)  
7 Sec. 21-7.1. Administrative certificate.

8 (a) After July 1, 1999, an administrative certificate valid  
9 for 5 years of supervising and administering in the public  
10 common schools (unless changed under subsection (a-5) of this  
11 Section) may be issued to persons who have graduated from a  
12 regionally accredited institution of higher learning with a  
13 master's degree and who have been recommended by a recognized  
14 institution of higher learning, a not-for-profit entity, or a  
15 combination thereof, as having completed a program of  
16 preparation for one or more of these endorsements. Such  
17 programs of academic and professional preparation required for  
18 endorsement shall be administered by an ~~the~~ institution or  
19 not-for-profit entity approved to offer such programs by the  
20 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
21 Teacher Certification Board, and shall be operated in  
22 accordance with this Article and the standards set forth by the  
23 State Superintendent of Education in consultation with the

1 State Teacher Certification Board. Any program offered in whole  
2 or in part by a not-for-profit entity must also be approved by  
3 the Board of Higher Education.

4 (a-5) Beginning July 1, 2003, if an administrative  
5 certificate holder holds a Standard Teaching Certificate, the  
6 validity period of the administrative certificate shall be  
7 changed, if necessary, so that the validity period of the  
8 administrative certificate coincides with the validity period  
9 of the Standard Teaching Certificate. Beginning July 1, 2003,  
10 if an administrative certificate holder holds a Master Teaching  
11 Certificate, the validity period of the administrative  
12 certificate shall be changed so that the validity period of the  
13 administrative certificate coincides with the validity period  
14 of the Master Teaching Certificate.

15 (b) No administrative certificate shall be issued for the  
16 first time after June 30, 1987 and no endorsement provided for  
17 by this Section shall be made or affixed to an administrative  
18 certificate for the first time after June 30, 1987 unless the  
19 person to whom such administrative certificate is to be issued  
20 or to whose administrative certificate such endorsement is to  
21 be affixed has been required to demonstrate as a part of a  
22 program of academic or professional preparation for such  
23 certification or endorsement: (i) an understanding of the  
24 knowledge called for in establishing productive parent-school  
25 relationships and of the procedures fostering the involvement  
26 which such relationships demand; and (ii) an understanding of

1 the knowledge required for establishing a high quality school  
2 climate and promoting good classroom organization and  
3 management, including rules of conduct and instructional  
4 procedures appropriate to accomplishing the tasks of  
5 schooling; and (iii) a demonstration of the knowledge and  
6 skills called for in providing instructional leadership. The  
7 standards for demonstrating an understanding of such knowledge  
8 shall be set forth by the State Board of Education in  
9 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, and  
10 shall be administered by the recognized institutions of higher  
11 learning as part of the programs of academic and professional  
12 preparation required for certification and endorsement under  
13 this Section. As used in this subsection: "establishing  
14 productive parent-school relationships" means the ability to  
15 maintain effective communication between parents and school  
16 personnel, to encourage parental involvement in schooling, and  
17 to motivate school personnel to engage parents in encouraging  
18 student achievement, including the development of programs and  
19 policies which serve to accomplish this purpose; and  
20 "establishing a high quality school climate" means the ability  
21 to promote academic achievement, to maintain discipline, to  
22 recognize substance abuse problems among students and utilize  
23 appropriate law enforcement and other community resources to  
24 address these problems, to support teachers and students in  
25 their education endeavors, to establish learning objectives  
26 and to provide instructional leadership, including the

1 development of policies and programs which serve to accomplish  
2 this purpose; and "providing instructional leadership" means  
3 the ability to effectively evaluate school personnel, to  
4 possess general communication and interpersonal skills, and to  
5 establish and maintain appropriate classroom learning  
6 environments. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply  
7 to or affect the initial issuance or making on or before June  
8 30, 1987 of any administrative certificate or endorsement  
9 provided for under this Section, nor shall such provisions  
10 apply to or affect the renewal after June 30, 1987 of any such  
11 certificate or endorsement initially issued or made on or  
12 before June 30, 1987.

13 (c) Administrative certificates shall be renewed every 5  
14 years with the first renewal being 5 years following the  
15 initial receipt of an administrative certificate, unless the  
16 validity period for the administrative certificate has been  
17 changed under subsection (a-5) of this Section, in which case  
18 the certificate shall be renewed at the same time that the  
19 Standard or Master Teaching Certificate is renewed.

20 (c-5) (Blank). ~~Before July 1, 2003, renewal requirements~~  
21 ~~for administrators whose positions require certification shall~~  
22 ~~be based upon evidence of continuing professional education~~  
23 ~~which promotes the following goals: (1) improving~~  
24 ~~administrators' knowledge of instructional practices and~~  
25 ~~administrative procedures; (2) maintaining the basic level of~~  
26 ~~competence required for initial certification; and (3)~~

1 ~~improving the mastery of skills and knowledge regarding the~~  
2 ~~improvement of teaching performance in clinical settings and~~  
3 ~~assessment of the levels of student performance in their~~  
4 ~~schools. Evidence of continuing professional education must~~  
5 ~~include verification of biennial attendance in a program~~  
6 ~~developed by the Illinois Administrators' Academy and~~  
7 ~~verification of annual participation in a school district~~  
8 ~~approved activity which contributes to continuing professional~~  
9 ~~education.~~

10 (c-10) ~~Except Beginning July 1, 2003, except~~ as otherwise  
11 provided in subsection (c-15) of this Section, persons holding  
12 administrative certificates must follow the certificate  
13 renewal procedure set forth in this subsection (c-10), provided  
14 that those persons holding administrative certificates on June  
15 30, 2003 who are renewing those certificates on or after July  
16 1, 2003 shall be issued new administrative certificates valid  
17 for 5 years (unless changed under subsection (a-5) of this  
18 Section), which may be renewed thereafter as set forth in this  
19 subsection (c-10).

20 A person holding an administrative certificate and  
21 employed in a position requiring administrative certification,  
22 including a regional superintendent of schools, must satisfy  
23 the continuing professional development requirements of this  
24 Section to renew his or her administrative certificate. The  
25 continuing professional development must include without  
26 limitation the following continuing professional development

1 purposes:

2 (1) To improve the administrator's knowledge of  
3 instructional practices and administrative procedures in  
4 accordance with the Illinois Professional School Leader  
5 Standards.

6 (2) To maintain the basic level of competence required  
7 for initial certification.

8 (3) To improve the administrator's mastery of skills  
9 and knowledge regarding the improvement of teaching  
10 performance in clinical settings and assessment of the  
11 levels of student performance in the schools.

12 The continuing professional development must include the  
13 following in order for the certificate to be renewed:

14 (A) Participation in continuing professional  
15 development activities, which must total a minimum of 100  
16 hours of continuing professional development. The  
17 participation must consist of a minimum of 5 activities per  
18 validity period of the certificate, and the certificate  
19 holder must maintain documentation of completion of each  
20 activity.

21 (B) Participation every year in an Illinois  
22 Administrators' Academy course, which participation must  
23 total a minimum of 30 continuing professional development  
24 hours during the period of the certificate's validity and  
25 which must include completion of applicable required  
26 coursework, including completion of a communication,

1 dissemination, or application component, as defined by the  
2 State Board of Education.

3 The certificate holder must complete a verification form  
4 developed by the State Board of Education and certify that 100  
5 hours of continuing professional development activities and 5  
6 Administrators' Academy courses have been completed. The  
7 regional superintendent of schools shall review and validate  
8 the verification form for a certificate holder. Based on  
9 compliance with all of the requirements for renewal, the  
10 regional superintendent of schools shall forward a  
11 recommendation for renewal or non-renewal to the State  
12 Superintendent of Education and shall notify the certificate  
13 holder of the recommendation. The State Superintendent of  
14 Education shall review the recommendation to renew or non-renew  
15 and shall notify, in writing, the certificate holder of a  
16 decision denying renewal of his or her certificate. Any  
17 decision regarding non-renewal of an administrative  
18 certificate may be appealed to the State Teacher Certification  
19 Board.

20 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
21 State Teacher Certification Board, shall adopt rules to  
22 implement this subsection (c-10).

23 The regional superintendent of schools shall monitor the  
24 process for renewal of administrative certificates established  
25 in this subsection (c-10).

26 (c-15) This subsection (c-15) applies to the first period

1 of an administrative certificate's validity during which the  
2 holder becomes subject to the requirements of subsection (c-10)  
3 of this Section if the certificate has less than 5 years'  
4 validity or has less than 5 years' validity remaining when the  
5 certificate holder becomes subject to the requirements of  
6 subsection (c-10) of this Section. With respect to this period,  
7 the 100 hours of continuing professional development and 5  
8 activities per validity period specified in clause (A) of  
9 subsection (c-10) of this Section shall instead be deemed to  
10 mean 20 hours of continuing professional development and one  
11 activity per year of the certificate's validity or remaining  
12 validity and the 30 continuing professional development hours  
13 specified in clause (B) of subsection (c-10) of this Section  
14 shall instead be deemed to mean completion of at least one  
15 course per year of the certificate's validity or remaining  
16 validity. Certificate holders who evaluate certified staff  
17 must complete a 2-day teacher evaluation course, in addition to  
18 the 30 continuing professional development hours.

19 (c-20) The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
20 the State Teacher Certification Board, shall develop  
21 procedures for implementing this Section and shall administer  
22 the renewal of administrative certificates. Failure to submit  
23 satisfactory evidence of continuing professional education  
24 which contributes to promoting the goals of this Section shall  
25 result in a loss of administrative certification.

26 (d) Any limited or life supervisory certificate issued



1 prior to July 1, 1968 shall continue to be valid for all  
2 administrative and supervisory positions in the public schools  
3 for which it is valid as of that date as long as its holder  
4 meets the requirements for registration or renewal as set forth  
5 in the statutes or until revoked according to law.

6 (e) The administrative or supervisory positions for which  
7 the certificate shall be valid shall be determined by one or  
8 more of the following ~~3~~ endorsements: general supervisory,  
9 general administrative, principal, chief school business  
10 official, and superintendent.

11 Subject to the provisions of Section 21-1a, endorsements  
12 shall be made under conditions set forth in this Section. The  
13 State Board of Education shall, in consultation with the State  
14 Teacher Certification Board, adopt rules pursuant to the  
15 Illinois Administrative Procedure Act, establishing  
16 requirements for obtaining administrative certificates where  
17 the minimum administrative or supervisory requirements surpass  
18 those set forth in this Section.

19 The State Teacher Certification Board shall file with the  
20 State Board of Education a written recommendation when  
21 considering additional administrative or supervisory  
22 requirements. All additional requirements shall be based upon  
23 the requisite knowledge necessary to perform those tasks  
24 required by the certificate. The State Board of Education shall  
25 in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board,  
26 establish standards within its rules which shall include the

1 academic and professional requirements necessary for  
2 certification. These standards shall at a minimum contain, but  
3 not be limited to, those used by the State Board of Education  
4 in determining whether additional knowledge will be required.  
5 Additionally, the State Board of Education shall in  
6 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board,  
7 establish provisions within its rules whereby any member of the  
8 educational community or the public may file a formal written  
9 recommendation or inquiry regarding requirements.

10 (1) Until July 1, 2003, the general supervisory  
11 endorsement shall be affixed to the administrative  
12 certificate of any holder who has at least 16 semester  
13 hours of graduate credit in professional education  
14 including 8 semester hours of graduate credit in curriculum  
15 and research and who has at least 2 years of full-time  
16 teaching experience or school service personnel experience  
17 in public schools, schools under the supervision of the  
18 Department of Corrections, schools under the  
19 administration of the Department of Rehabilitation  
20 Services, or nonpublic schools meeting the standards  
21 established by the State Superintendent of Education or  
22 comparable out-of-state recognition standards approved by  
23 the State Superintendent of Education.

24 Such endorsement shall be required for supervisors,  
25 curriculum directors and for such similar and related  
26 positions as determined by the State Superintendent of

1 Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
2 Certification Board.

3 (2) Until June 30, 2014, the ~~The~~ general administrative  
4 endorsement shall be affixed to the administrative  
5 certificate of any holder who has at least 20 semester  
6 hours of graduate credit in educational administration and  
7 supervision and who has at least 2 years of full-time  
8 teaching experience or school service personnel experience  
9 in public schools, schools under the supervision of the  
10 Department of Corrections, schools under the  
11 administration of the Department of Rehabilitation  
12 Services, or nonpublic schools meeting the standards  
13 established by the State Superintendent of Education or  
14 comparable out-of-state recognition standards approved by  
15 the State Superintendent of Education.

16 Such endorsement or a principal endorsement shall be  
17 required for principal, assistant principal, assistant or  
18 associate superintendent, and junior college dean and for  
19 related or similar positions as determined by the State  
20 Superintendent of Education in consultation with the State  
21 Teacher Certification Board.

22 ~~Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act,~~  
23 ~~after January 1, 1990 and until January 1, 1991, any~~  
24 ~~teacher employed by a district subject to Article 34 shall~~  
25 ~~be entitled to receive an administrative certificate with a~~  
26 ~~general administrative endorsement affixed thereto if he~~

1 ~~or she: (i) had at least 3 years of experience as a~~  
2 ~~certified teacher for such district prior to August 1,~~  
3 ~~1985; (ii) obtained a Master's degree prior to August 1,~~  
4 ~~1985; (iii) completed at least 20 hours of graduate credit~~  
5 ~~in education courses (including at least 12 hours in~~  
6 ~~educational administration and supervision) prior to~~  
7 ~~September 1, 1987; and (iv) has received a rating of~~  
8 ~~superior for at least each of the last 5 years. Any person~~  
9 ~~who obtains an administrative certificate with a general~~  
10 ~~administrative endorsement affixed thereto under this~~  
11 ~~paragraph shall not be qualified to serve in any~~  
12 ~~administrative position except assistant principal.~~

13 (2.5) The principal endorsement shall be affixed to the  
14 administrative certificate of any holder who qualifies by:

15 (A) successfully completing a principal  
16 preparation program approved in accordance with  
17 Section 21-7.6 of this Code and any applicable rules;

18 (B) having 4 years of teaching experience;  
19 however, the State Board of Education shall allow, by  
20 rules, for fewer than 4 years of experience based on  
21 meeting standards set forth in such rules, including  
22 without limitation a review of performance evaluations  
23 or other evidence of demonstrated qualifications; and

24 (C) having a master's degree.

25 (3) The chief school business official endorsement  
26 shall be affixed to the administrative certificate of any

1 holder who qualifies by having a Master's degree, 2 years  
2 of administrative experience in school business management  
3 or 2 years of university-approved practical experience,  
4 and a minimum of 20 semester hours of graduate credit in a  
5 program established by the State Superintendent of  
6 Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
7 Certification Board for the preparation of school business  
8 administrators. Such endorsement shall also be affixed to  
9 the administrative certificate of any holder who qualifies  
10 by having a Master's Degree in Business Administration,  
11 Finance or Accounting from a regionally accredited  
12 institution of higher education.

13 After June 30, 1977, such endorsement shall be required  
14 for any individual first employed as a chief school  
15 business official.

16 (4) The superintendent endorsement shall be affixed to  
17 the administrative certificate of any holder who has  
18 completed 30 semester hours of graduate credit beyond the  
19 master's degree in a program for the preparation of  
20 superintendents of schools including 16 semester hours of  
21 graduate credit in professional education and who has at  
22 least 2 years experience as an administrator or supervisor  
23 in the public schools or the State Board of Education or  
24 education service regions or in nonpublic schools meeting  
25 the standards established by the State Superintendent of  
26 Education or comparable out-of-state recognition standards

1 approved by the State Superintendent of Education and holds  
2 general supervisory or general administrative endorsement,  
3 or who has had 2 years of experience as a supervisor or  
4 administrator while holding an all-grade supervisory  
5 certificate or a certificate comparable in validity and  
6 educational and experience requirements.

7 After June 30, 1968, such endorsement shall be required  
8 for a superintendent of schools, except as provided in the  
9 second paragraph of this Section and in Section 34-6.

10 Any person appointed to the position of superintendent  
11 between the effective date of this Act and June 30, 1993 in  
12 a school district organized pursuant to Article 32 with an  
13 enrollment of at least 20,000 pupils shall be exempt from  
14 the provisions of this paragraph (4) until June 30, 1996.

15 (f) All official interpretations or acts of issuing or  
16 denying administrative certificates or endorsements by the  
17 State Teacher's Certification Board, State Board of Education  
18 or the State Superintendent of Education, from the passage of  
19 P.A. 81-1208 on November 8, 1979 through September 24, 1981 are  
20 hereby declared valid and legal acts in all respects and  
21 further that the purported repeal of the provisions of this  
22 Section by P.A. 81-1208 and P.A. 81-1509 is declared null and  
23 void.

24 (Source: P.A. 96-56, eff. 1-1-10.)

25 (105 ILCS 5/21-7.6 new)

1       Sec. 21-7.6. Principal preparation programs.

2       (a) It is the policy of this State that an essential  
3 element of improving student learning is supporting and  
4 employing highly effective school principals in leadership  
5 roles who improve teaching and learning and increase academic  
6 achievement and the development of all students.

7       (b) No later than July 1, 2014, all institutions of higher  
8 education and not-for-profit entities approved by the State  
9 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
10 Certification Board, to offer principal preparation programs  
11 must do all of the following:

12           (1) Meet the standards and requirements for such  
13 programs in accordance with this Section and any rules  
14 adopted by the State Board of Education.

15           (2) Prepare candidates to meet approved standards for  
16 principal skills, knowledge, and responsibilities, which  
17 shall include a focus on instruction and student learning  
18 and which must be used for principal professional  
19 development, mentoring, and evaluation.

20           (3) Include specific requirements for (i) the  
21 selection and assessment of candidates, (ii) training in  
22 the evaluation of staff, (iii) an internship, and (iv) a  
23 partnership with one or more school districts or  
24 State-recognized, non-public schools where the chief  
25 administrator is required to have the certification  
26 necessary to be a principal in an Illinois public school

1       and where a majority of the instructors are required to  
2       have the certification necessary to be instructors in an  
3       Illinois public school.

4       In accordance with subsection (a) of Section 21-7.1 of this  
5       Code, any principal preparation program offered in whole or in  
6       part by a not-for-profit entity must also be approved by the  
7       Board of Higher Education.

8       (c) No candidates may be admitted to an approved general  
9       administrative preparation program after September 1, 2012.  
10      Institutions of higher education currently offering general  
11      administrative preparation programs may no longer entitle  
12      principals with a general administrative endorsement after  
13      June 30, 2014.

14      (d) Candidates successfully completing a principal  
15      preparation program established pursuant to this Section shall  
16      obtain a principal endorsement on an administrative  
17      certificate and are eligible to work in, at a minimum, those  
18      capacities set forth in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of  
19      Section 21-7.1 of this Code. Beginning on July 1, 2014, the  
20      general administrative endorsement shall no longer be issued.  
21      Individuals who hold a valid and registered administrative  
22      certificate with a general administrative endorsement prior to  
23      July 1, 2014 and who have served for at least one full year  
24      during the 5 years prior in a position requiring a general  
25      administrative endorsement shall, upon request to the State  
26      Board of Education and through July 1, 2015, have their



1 respective general administrative endorsement converted to a  
2 principal endorsement. All other individuals holding a valid  
3 and registered administrative certificate with a general  
4 administrative endorsement prior to July 1, 2014 shall have  
5 such general administrative endorsement converted to a  
6 principal endorsement upon request to the State Board of  
7 Education and by completing one of the following pathways:

8 (1) Take and pass a State principal assessment  
9 developed by the State Board of Education.

10 (2) Through July 1, 2019, complete an Illinois  
11 Administrators' Academy course designated by the State  
12 Superintendent of Education.

13 (3) Complete a principal preparation program  
14 established and approved pursuant to this Section and  
15 applicable rules.

16 Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly  
17 shall prevent an individual having a general administrative  
18 endorsement from serving at any time in any position identified  
19 in paragraph (2) of subsection (e) of Section 21-7.1 of this  
20 Code.

21 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt rules necessary  
22 to implement and administer principal preparation programs  
23 under this Section.

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
25 2010.