

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 21-5b, 21-5c, and 21B-50 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-5b)

7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on September 1, 2013)

8 Sec. 21-5b. Alternative certification. The State Board of
9 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher
10 Certification Board, shall establish and implement an
11 alternative certification program under which persons who meet
12 the requirements of and successfully complete the program
13 established by this Section shall be issued an alternative
14 teaching certificate for teaching in the schools. The program
15 shall be limited to not more than 260 new participants during
16 each year that the program is in effect. The State Board of
17 Education, in cooperation with one or more not-for-profit
18 organizations in the State that support excellence in teaching,
19 which may be in partnership with a university that offers
20 4-year baccalaureate and masters degree programs and that is a
21 recognized institution as defined in Section 21B-105 of this
22 Code, may within 30 days after submission by the program
23 sponsor approve a course of study developed by the program

1 sponsor that persons in the program must successfully complete
2 in order to satisfy one criterion for issuance of an
3 alternative certificate under this Section. The Alternative
4 Teacher Certification program course of study must include
5 content and skills which have been approved by the State Board
6 of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher
7 Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for State
8 teacher certification.

9 The alternative certification program established under
10 this Section shall be known as the Alternative Teacher
11 Certification program. The Alternative Teacher Certification
12 Program shall be offered by the submitting partnership, and
13 such partnership may be offered by one or more not-for-profit
14 organizations in the State which support excellence in
15 teaching. The program shall be comprised of the following 3
16 phases: (a) the first phase is the course of study offered on
17 an intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,
18 and practice teaching; (b) the second phase is the person's
19 assignment to a full-time teaching position for one school
20 year; and (c) the third phase is a comprehensive assessment of
21 the person's teaching performance by school officials and the
22 partnership participants and a recommendation by the program
23 sponsor to the State Board of Education that the person be
24 issued a standard alternative teaching certificate. Successful
25 completion of the Alternative Teacher Certification program
26 shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or student

1 teaching and subject matter requirements established by law.

2 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for
3 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,
4 shall be issued under this Section 21-5b to persons who at the
5 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching
6 certificate under this Section:

7 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or
8 university with a bachelor's degree;

9 (2) have successfully completed the first phase of the
10 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in
11 this Section;

12 (3) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject
13 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a; and

14 (4) (i) have been employed for a period of at least 5
15 years in an area requiring application of the individual's
16 education or (ii) have attained at least a cumulative grade
17 average of a "B" if the individual is assigned either to a
18 school district that has not met the annual measurable
19 objective for highly qualified teachers required by the
20 Illinois Revised Highly Qualified Teachers (HQT) Plan or to
21 a school district whose data filed with the State Board of
22 Education indicates that the district's poor and minority
23 students are taught by teachers who are not highly
24 qualified at a higher rate than other students; however,
25 this item (4) does not apply with respect to a provisional
26 alternative teaching certificate for teaching in schools

1 situated in a school district that is located in a city
2 having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.
3 Assignment may be made under clause (ii) of this item (4)
4 only if the district superintendent and the exclusive
5 bargaining representative of the district's teachers, if
6 any, jointly agree to permit the assignment.

7 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate
8 under this Section shall be treated as a regularly certified
9 teacher for purposes of compensation, benefits, and other terms
10 and conditions of employment afforded teachers in the school
11 who are members of a bargaining unit represented by an
12 exclusive bargaining representative, if any.

13 Until February 15, 2000, a standard alternative teaching
14 certificate, valid for 4 years for teaching in the schools and
15 renewable as provided in Section 21-14, shall be issued under
16 this Section 21-5b to persons who first complete the
17 requirements for the provisional alternative teaching
18 certificate and who at the time of applying for a standard
19 alternative teaching certificate under this Section have
20 successfully completed the second and third phases of the
21 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in this
22 Section. Alternatively, beginning February 15, 2000, at the end
23 of the 4-year validity period, persons who were issued a
24 standard alternative teaching certificate shall be eligible,
25 on the same basis as holders of an Initial Teaching Certificate
26 issued under subsection (b) of Section 21-2 of this Code, to

1 apply for a Standard Teaching Certificate, provided they meet
2 the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 21-2 of this Code
3 and further provided that a person who does not apply for and
4 receive a Standard Teaching Certificate shall be able to teach
5 only in schools situated in a school district that is located
6 in a city having a population in excess of 500,000 inhabitants.

7 Beginning February 15, 2000, persons who have completed the
8 requirements for a standard alternative teaching certificate
9 under this Section shall be issued an Initial Alternative
10 Teaching Certificate valid for 4 years of teaching and not
11 renewable. At the end of the 4-year validity period, these
12 persons shall be eligible, on the same basis as holders of an
13 Initial Teaching Certificate issued under subsection (b) of
14 Section 21-2 of this Code, to apply for a Standard Teaching
15 Certificate, provided they meet the requirements of subsection
16 (c) of Section 21-2.

17 Such alternative certification program shall be
18 implemented so that the first provisional alternative teaching
19 certificates issued under this Section are effective upon the
20 commencement of the 1997-1998 academic year and the first
21 standard alternative teaching certificates issued under this
22 Section are effective upon the commencement of the 1998-1999
23 academic year.

24 The State Board of Education, in cooperation with the
25 partnership or partnerships establishing such Alternative
26 Teacher Certification programs, shall adopt rules and

1 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the
2 State Board of Education deems necessary to establish and
3 implement the program.

4 No one may be admitted to an alternative certification
5 program under this Section after September 1, 2013 ~~2012~~, and
6 those candidates who are admitted on or before September 1,
7 2013 ~~2012~~ must complete the program before January 1, 2015
8 ~~September 1, 2013~~.

9 This Section is repealed on January 1, 2015 ~~September 1,~~
10 ~~2013~~.

11 (Source: P.A. 96-862, eff. 1-15-10; 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

12 (105 ILCS 5/21-5c)

13 (Section scheduled to be repealed on September 1, 2013)

14 Sec. 21-5c. Alternative route to teacher certification.
15 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
16 Teacher Certification Board, shall establish and implement one
17 or more alternative route to teacher certification programs
18 under which persons who meet the requirements of and
19 successfully complete the programs established by this Section
20 shall be issued an initial teaching certificate for teaching in
21 schools in this State. The State Board of Education may approve
22 a course of study that persons in such programs must
23 successfully complete in order to satisfy one criterion for
24 issuance of a certificate under this Section. The Alternative
25 Route to Teacher Certification programs course of study must

1 include content and skills which have been approved by the
2 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
3 Teacher Certification Board, as meeting the requirement for
4 State teacher certification.

5 Programs established under this Section shall be known as
6 Alternative Route to Teacher Certification programs. The
7 programs may be offered by a university that offers 4-year
8 baccalaureate and masters degree programs and that is a
9 recognized institution as defined in Section 21B-105 of this
10 Code, by one or more not-for-profit organizations in the State,
11 or a combination thereof. The programs shall be comprised of
12 the following 3 phases: (a) a course of study offered on an
13 intensive basis in education theory, instructional methods,
14 and practice teaching; (b) the person's assignment to a
15 full-time teaching position for one school year, including the
16 designation of a mentor teacher to advise and assist the person
17 with that teaching assignment; and (c) a comprehensive
18 assessment of the person's teaching performance by school
19 officials and program participants and a recommendation by the
20 program sponsor to the State Board of Education that the person
21 be issued an initial teaching certificate. Successful
22 completion of Alternative Route to Teacher Certification
23 programs shall be deemed to satisfy any other practice or
24 student teaching and subject matter requirements established
25 by law.

26 A provisional alternative teaching certificate, valid for

1 one year of teaching in the common schools and not renewable,
2 shall be issued under this Section 21-5c to persons who at the
3 time of applying for the provisional alternative teaching
4 certificate under this Section:

5 (1) have graduated from an accredited college or
6 university with a bachelor's degree;

7 (2) have been employed for a period of at least 5 years
8 in an area requiring application of the individual's
9 education;

10 (3) have successfully completed the first phase of the
11 Alternative Teacher Certification program as provided in
12 this Section; and

13 (4) have passed the tests of basic skills and subject
14 matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a.

15 An initial teaching certificate, valid for teaching in the
16 common schools, shall be issued under Section 21-3 or 21-5 to
17 persons who first complete the requirements for the provisional
18 alternative teaching certificate and who at the time of
19 applying for an initial teaching certificate have successfully
20 completed the second and third phases of the Alternative Route
21 to Teacher Certification program as provided in this Section.

22 A person possessing a provisional alternative certificate
23 or an initial teaching certificate earned under this Section
24 shall be treated as a regularly certified teacher for purposes
25 of compensation, benefits, and other terms and conditions of
26 employment afforded teachers in the school who are members of a

1 bargaining unit represented by an exclusive bargaining
2 representative, if any.

3 The State Board of Education may adopt rules and
4 regulations that are consistent with this Section and that the
5 State Board deems necessary to establish and implement the
6 program.

7 No one may be admitted to an alternative certification
8 program under this Section after September 1, 2013 ~~2012~~, and
9 those candidates who are admitted on or before September 1,
10 2013 ~~2012~~ must complete the program before January 1, 2015
11 ~~September 1, 2013~~.

12 This Section is repealed on January 1, 2015 ~~September 1,~~
13 ~~2013~~.

14 (Source: P.A. 96-862, eff. 1-15-10; 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

15 (105 ILCS 5/21B-50)

16 Sec. 21B-50. Alternative educator licensure program.

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

20 (b) Beginning on January 1, 2013, the Alternative Educator
21 Licensure Program for Teachers may be offered by a recognized
22 institution approved to offer educator preparation programs by
23 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
24 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. Any program offered
25 by a not-for-profit entity also must be approved by the Board

1 of Higher Education.

2 The program shall be comprised of 4 phases:

3 (1) A course of study that at a minimum includes
4 instructional planning; instructional strategies,
5 including special education, reading, and English language
6 learning; classroom management; and the assessment of
7 students and use of data to drive instruction.

8 (2) A year of residency, which is a candidate's
9 assignment to a full-time teaching position or as a
10 co-teacher for one full school year. An individual must
11 hold an Educator License with Stipulations with an
12 alternative provisional educator endorsement in order to
13 enter the residency and must complete additional program
14 requirements that address required State and national
15 standards, pass the assessment of professional teaching
16 before entering the second residency year, as required
17 under phase (3) of this subsection (b), and be recommended
18 by the principal and program coordinator to continue with
19 the second year of the residency.

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

25 (4) A comprehensive assessment of the candidate's
26 teaching effectiveness, as evaluated by the principal and

1 the program coordinator, at the end of the second year of
2 residency. If there is disagreement between the 2
3 evaluators about the candidate's teaching effectiveness,
4 the candidate may complete one additional year of residency
5 teaching under a professional development plan developed
6 by the principal and preparation program. At the completion
7 of the third year, a candidate must have positive
8 evaluations and a recommendation for full licensure from
9 both the principal and the program coordinator or no
10 Professional Educator License shall be issued.

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

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

26 (1) Has graduated from a regionally accredited college

1 or university with a bachelor's degree or higher.

2 (2) Has a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or
3 greater on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent on another scale.

4 (3) Has completed a major in the content area if
5 seeking a middle or secondary level endorsement or, if
6 seeking an early childhood, elementary, or special
7 education endorsement, has completed a major in the content
8 area of reading, English/language arts, mathematics, or
9 one of the sciences. If the individual does not have a
10 major in a content area for any level of teaching, he or
11 she must submit transcripts to the State Superintendent of
12 Education to be reviewed for equivalency.

13 (4) Has successfully completed phase (1) of subsection
14 (b) of this Section.

15 (5) Has passed a test of basic skills and content area
16 test required for the specific endorsement for admission
17 into the program, as required under Section 21B-30 of this
18 Code.

19 A candidate possessing the alternative provisional
20 educator endorsement may receive a salary, benefits, and any
21 other terms of employment offered to teachers in the school who
22 are members of an exclusive bargaining representative, if any,
23 but a school is not required to provide these benefits during
24 the years of residency if the candidate is serving only as a
25 co-teacher. If the candidate is serving as the teacher of
26 record, the candidate must receive a salary, benefits, and any

1 other terms of employment. Residency experiences must not be
2 counted towards tenure.

3 (d) The recognized institution offering the Alternative
4 Educator Licensure Program for Teachers must partner with a
5 school district, including without limitation a charter
6 school, or a State-recognized, nonpublic school in this State
7 in which the chief administrator is required to have the
8 licensure necessary to be a principal in a public school in
9 this State and in which a majority of the teachers are required
10 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a public
11 school in this State. The program presented for approval by the
12 State Board of Education must demonstrate the supports that are
13 to be provided to assist the provisional teacher during the
14 2-year residency period. These supports must provide
15 additional contact hours with mentors during the first year of
16 residency.

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

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

25 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.