

**SB0651**



**97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**State of Illinois**

**2011 and 2012**

**SB0651**

Introduced 2/8/2011, by Sen. John J. Cullerton

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/21-2

from Ch. 122, par. 21-2

Amends the School Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning teacher certification.

LRB097 04388 NHT 44427 b

**A BILL FOR**

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 21-2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21-2) (from Ch. 122, par. 21-2)  
7 Sec. 21-2. Grades of certificates.

8 (a) All certificates issued under this Article shall be  
9 State certificates valid, except as limited in Section 21-1, in  
10 every school district coming under the ~~the~~ provisions of this  
11 Act and shall be limited in time and designated as follows:  
12 Provisional vocational certificate, temporary provisional  
13 vocational certificate, early childhood certificate,  
14 elementary school certificate, special certificate, secondary  
15 certificate, school service personnel certificate,  
16 administrative certificate, provisional certificate, and  
17 substitute certificate. The requirement of student teaching  
18 under close and competent supervision for obtaining a teaching  
19 certificate may be waived by the State Teacher Certification  
20 Board upon presentation to the Board by the teacher of evidence  
21 of 5 years successful teaching experience on a valid  
22 certificate and graduation from a recognized institution of  
23 higher learning with a bachelor's degree.

1           (b) Initial Teaching Certificate. Persons who (1) have  
2 completed an approved teacher preparation program, (2) are  
3 recommended by an approved teacher preparation program, (3)  
4 have successfully completed the Initial Teaching Certification  
5 examinations required by the State Board of Education, and (4)  
6 have met all other criteria established by the State Board of  
7 Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification  
8 Board, shall be issued an Initial Teaching Certificate valid  
9 for 4 years of teaching, as defined in Section 21-14 of this  
10 Code. Initial Teaching Certificates shall be issued for  
11 categories corresponding to Early Childhood, Elementary,  
12 Secondary, and Special K-12, with special certification  
13 designations for Special Education, Bilingual Education,  
14 fundamental learning areas (including Language Arts, Reading,  
15 Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Physical Development and  
16 Health, Fine Arts, and Foreign Language), and other areas  
17 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
18 with the State Teacher Certification Board. Notwithstanding  
19 any other provision of this Article, an Initial Teaching  
20 Certificate shall be automatically extended for one year for  
21 all persons who (i) have been issued an Initial Teaching  
22 Certificate that expires on June 30, 2004 and (ii) have not  
23 met, prior to July 1, 2004, the Standard Certificate  
24 requirements under paragraph (c) of this Section. An  
25 application and fee shall not be required for this extension.

26           (b-5) A person who holds an out-of-state certificate and

1 who is otherwise eligible for a comparable Illinois certificate  
2 may be issued an Initial Certificate if that person has not  
3 completed 4 years of teaching. Upon completion of 4 years of  
4 teaching, the person is eligible for a Standard Certificate.  
5 Beginning July 1, 2004, an out-of-state candidate who has  
6 already earned a second-tier certificate in another state is  
7 not subject to any Standard Certificate eligibility  
8 requirements stated in paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of this  
9 Section other than completion of the 4 years of teaching. An  
10 out-of-state candidate who has completed less than 4 years of  
11 teaching and does not hold a second-tier certificate from  
12 another state must meet the requirements stated in paragraph  
13 (2) of subsection (c) of this Section, proportionately reduced  
14 by the amount of time remaining to complete the 4 years of  
15 teaching.

16 (c) Standard Certificate.

17 (1) Persons who (i) have completed 4 years of teaching, as  
18 defined in Section 21-14 of this Code, with an Initial  
19 Certificate or an Initial Alternative Teaching Certificate and  
20 have met all other criteria established by the State Board of  
21 Education in consultation with the State Teacher Certification  
22 Board, (ii) have completed 4 years of teaching on a valid  
23 equivalent certificate in another State or territory of the  
24 United States, or have completed 4 years of teaching in a  
25 nonpublic Illinois elementary or secondary school with an  
26 Initial Certificate or an Initial Alternative Teaching

1 Certificate, and have met all other criteria established by the  
2 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
3 Teacher Certification Board, or (iii) were issued teaching  
4 certificates prior to February 15, 2000 and are renewing those  
5 certificates after February 15, 2000, shall be issued a  
6 Standard Certificate valid for 5 years, which may be renewed  
7 thereafter every 5 years by the State Teacher Certification  
8 Board based on proof of continuing education or professional  
9 development. Beginning July 1, 2003, persons who have completed  
10 4 years of teaching, as described in clauses (i) and (ii) of  
11 this paragraph (1), have successfully completed the  
12 requirements of paragraphs (2) through (4) of this subsection  
13 (c), and have met all other criteria established by the State  
14 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
15 Certification Board, shall be issued Standard Certificates.  
16 Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section,  
17 beginning July 1, 2004, persons who hold valid out-of-state  
18 certificates and have completed 4 years of teaching on a valid  
19 equivalent certificate in another State or territory of the  
20 United States shall be issued comparable Standard  
21 Certificates. Beginning July 1, 2004, persons who hold valid  
22 out-of-state certificates as described in subsection (b-5) of  
23 this Section are subject to the requirements of paragraphs (2)  
24 through (4) of this subsection (c), as required in subsection  
25 (b-5) of this Section, in order to receive a Standard  
26 Certificate. Standard Certificates shall be issued for

1 categories corresponding to Early Childhood, Elementary,  
2 Secondary, and Special K-12, with special certification  
3 designations for Special Education, Bilingual Education,  
4 fundamental learning areas (including Language Arts, Reading,  
5 Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Physical Development and  
6 Health, Fine Arts, and Foreign Language), and other areas  
7 designated by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
8 with the State Teacher Certification Board.

9 (2) This paragraph (2) applies only to those persons  
10 required to successfully complete the requirements of this  
11 paragraph under paragraph (1) of this subsection (c). In order  
12 to receive a Standard Teaching Certificate, a person must  
13 satisfy one of the following requirements:

14 (A) Completion of a program of induction and mentoring  
15 for new teachers that is based upon a specific plan  
16 approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
17 with the State Teacher Certification Board. Nothing in this  
18 Section, however, prohibits an induction or mentoring  
19 program from operating prior to approval. Holders of  
20 Initial Certificates issued before September 1, 2007 must  
21 complete, at a minimum, an approved one-year induction and  
22 mentoring program. Holders of Initial Certificates issued  
23 on or after September 1, 2007 must complete an approved  
24 2-year induction and mentoring program. The plan must  
25 describe the role of mentor teachers, the criteria and  
26 process for their selection, and how all the following

1 components are to be provided:

2 (i) Assignment of a formally trained mentor  
3 teacher to each new teacher for a specified period of  
4 time, which shall be established by the employing  
5 school or school district, provided that a mentor  
6 teacher may not directly or indirectly participate in  
7 the evaluation of a new teacher pursuant to Article 24A  
8 of this Code or the evaluation procedure of the school.

9 (ii) Formal mentoring for each new teacher.

10 (iii) Support for each new teacher in relation to  
11 the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards, the  
12 content-area standards applicable to the new teacher's  
13 area of certification, and any applicable local school  
14 improvement and professional development plans.

15 (iv) Professional development specifically  
16 designed to foster the growth of each new teacher's  
17 knowledge and skills.

18 (v) Formative assessment that is based on the  
19 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and designed  
20 to provide feedback to the new teacher and  
21 opportunities for reflection on his or her  
22 performance, which must not be used directly or  
23 indirectly in any evaluation of a new teacher pursuant  
24 to Article 24A of this Code or the evaluation procedure  
25 of the school and which must include the activities  
26 specified in clauses (B)(i), (B)(ii), and (B)(iii) of

1           this paragraph (2).

2           (vi) Assignment of responsibility for coordination  
3           of the induction and mentoring program within each  
4           school district participating in the program.

5           (B) Successful completion of 4 semester hours of  
6           graduate-level coursework on the assessment of one's own  
7           performance in relation to the Illinois Professional  
8           Teaching Standards. The coursework must be approved by the  
9           State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
10          Teacher Certification Board; must be offered either by an  
11          institution of higher education, by such an institution in  
12          partnership with a teachers' association or union or with a  
13          regional office of education, or by another entity  
14          authorized to issue college credit; and must include  
15          demonstration of performance through all of the following  
16          activities for each of the Illinois Professional Teaching  
17          Standards:

18           (i) Observation, by the course instructor or  
19           another experienced teacher, of the new teacher's  
20           classroom practice (the observation may be recorded  
21           for later viewing) for the purpose of identifying and  
22           describing how the new teacher made content meaningful  
23           for students; how the teacher motivated individuals  
24           and the group and created an environment conducive to  
25           positive social interactions, active learning, and  
26           self-motivation; what instructional strategies the



1 teacher used to encourage students' development of  
2 critical thinking, problem solving, and performance;  
3 how the teacher communicated using written, verbal,  
4 nonverbal, and visual communication techniques; and  
5 how the teacher maintained standards of professional  
6 conduct and provided leadership to improve students'  
7 learning.

8 (ii) Review and analysis, by the course instructor  
9 or another experienced teacher, of written  
10 documentation (i.e., lesson plans, assignments,  
11 assessment instruments, and samples of students' work)  
12 prepared by the new teacher for at least 2 lessons. The  
13 documentation must provide evidence of classroom  
14 performance related to Illinois Professional Teaching  
15 Standards 1 through 9, with an emphasis on how the  
16 teacher used his or her understanding of students,  
17 assessment data, and subject matter to decide on  
18 learning goals; how the teacher designed or selected  
19 activities and instructional materials and aligned  
20 instruction to the relevant Illinois Learning  
21 Standards; how the teacher adapted or modified  
22 curriculum to meet individual students' needs; and how  
23 the teacher sequenced instruction and designed or  
24 selected student assessment strategies.

25 (iii) Demonstration of professional expertise on  
26 the part of the new teacher in reflecting on his or her

1 practice, which was observed under clause (B)(i) of  
2 this paragraph (2) and documented under clause (B)(ii)  
3 of this paragraph (2), in terms of teaching strengths,  
4 weaknesses, and implications for improvement according  
5 to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.

6 (C) Successful completion of a minimum of 4 semester  
7 hours of graduate-level coursework addressing preparation  
8 to meet the requirements for certification by the National  
9 Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). The  
10 coursework must be approved by the State Board of  
11 Education, in consultation with the State Teacher  
12 Certification Board, and must be offered either by an  
13 institution of higher education, by such an institution in  
14 partnership with a teachers' association or union or with a  
15 regional office of education, or by another entity  
16 authorized to issue college credit. The course must address  
17 the 5 NBPTS Core Propositions and relevant standards  
18 through such means as the following:

19 (i) Observation, by the course instructor or  
20 another experienced teacher, of the new teacher's  
21 classroom practice (the observation may be recorded  
22 for later viewing) for the purpose of identifying and  
23 describing how the new teacher made content meaningful  
24 for students; how the teacher motivated individuals  
25 and the group and created an environment conducive to  
26 positive social interactions, active learning, and

1 self-motivation; what instructional strategies the  
2 teacher used to encourage students' development of  
3 critical thinking, problem solving, and performance;  
4 how the teacher communicated using written, verbal,  
5 nonverbal, and visual communication techniques; and  
6 how the teacher maintained standards of professional  
7 conduct and provided leadership to improve students'  
8 learning.

9 (ii) Review and analysis, by the course instructor  
10 or another experienced teacher, of written  
11 documentation (i.e., lesson plans, assignments,  
12 assessment instruments, and samples of students' work)  
13 prepared by the new teacher for at least 2 lessons. The  
14 documentation must provide evidence of classroom  
15 performance, including how the teacher used his or her  
16 understanding of students, assessment data, and  
17 subject matter to decide on learning goals; how the  
18 teacher designed or selected activities and  
19 instructional materials and aligned instruction to the  
20 relevant Illinois Learning Standards; how the teacher  
21 adapted or modified curriculum to meet individual  
22 students' needs; and how the teacher sequenced  
23 instruction and designed or selected student  
24 assessment strategies.

25 (iii) Demonstration of professional expertise on  
26 the part of the new teacher in reflecting on his or her

1 practice, which was observed under clause (C)(i) of  
2 this paragraph (2) and documented under clause (C)(ii)  
3 of this paragraph (2), in terms of teaching strengths,  
4 weaknesses, and implications for improvement.

5 (C-5) Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 12  
6 semester hours of graduate credit towards an advanced  
7 degree in an education-related field from an accredited  
8 institution of higher education.

9 (D) Receipt of an advanced degree from an accredited  
10 institution of higher education in an education-related  
11 field that is earned by a person either while he or she  
12 holds an Initial Teaching Certificate or prior to his or  
13 her receipt of that certificate.

14 (E) Accumulation of 60 continuing professional  
15 development units (CPDUs), earned by completing selected  
16 activities that comply with paragraphs (3) and (4) of this  
17 subsection (c). However, for an individual who holds an  
18 Initial Teaching Certificate on the effective date of this  
19 amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly, the number of  
20 CPDUs shall be reduced to reflect the teaching time  
21 remaining on the Initial Teaching Certificate.

22 (F) Completion of a nationally normed,  
23 performance-based assessment, if made available by the  
24 State Board of Education in consultation with the State  
25 Teacher Certification Board, provided that the cost to the  
26 person shall not exceed the cost of the coursework

1 described in clause (B) of this paragraph (2).

2 (G) Completion of requirements for meeting the  
3 Illinois criteria for becoming "highly qualified" (for  
4 purposes of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public  
5 Law 107-110) in an additional teaching area.

6 (H) Receipt of a minimum 12-hour, post-baccalaureate,  
7 education-related professional development certificate  
8 issued by an Illinois institution of higher education and  
9 developed in accordance with rules adopted by the State  
10 Board of Education in consultation with the State Teacher  
11 Certification Board.

12 (I) Completion of the National Board for Professional  
13 Teaching Standards (NBPTS) process.

14 (J) Receipt of a subsequent Illinois certificate or  
15 endorsement pursuant to Article 21 of this Code.

16 (3) This paragraph (3) applies only to those persons  
17 required to successfully complete the requirements of this  
18 paragraph under paragraph (1) of this subsection (c). Persons  
19 who seek to satisfy the requirements of clause (E) of paragraph  
20 (2) of this subsection (c) through accumulation of CPDUs may  
21 earn credit through completion of coursework, workshops,  
22 seminars, conferences, and other similar training events that  
23 are pre-approved by the State Board of Education, in  
24 consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board, for  
25 the purpose of reflection on teaching practices in order to  
26 address all of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards

1 necessary to obtain a Standard Teaching Certificate. These  
2 activities must meet all of the following requirements:

3 (A) Each activity must be designed to advance a  
4 person's knowledge and skills in relation to one or more of  
5 the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards or in  
6 relation to the content-area standards applicable to the  
7 teacher's field of certification.

8 (B) Taken together, the activities completed must  
9 address each of the Illinois Professional Teaching  
10 Standards as provided in clauses (B)(i), (B)(ii), and  
11 (B)(iii) of paragraph (2) of this subsection (c).

12 (C) Each activity must be provided by an entity  
13 approved by the State Board of Education, in consultation  
14 with the State Teacher Certification Board, for this  
15 purpose.

16 (D) Each activity, integral to its successful  
17 completion, must require participants to demonstrate the  
18 degree to which they have acquired new knowledge or skills,  
19 such as through performance, through preparation of a  
20 written product, through assembling samples of students'  
21 or teachers' work, or by some other means that is  
22 appropriate to the subject matter of the activity.

23 (E) One CPDU shall be available for each hour of direct  
24 participation by a holder of an Initial Teaching  
25 Certificate in a qualifying activity. An activity may be  
26 attributed to more than one of the Illinois Professional

1 Teaching Standards, but credit for any activity shall be  
2 counted only once.

3 (4) This paragraph (4) applies only to those persons  
4 required to successfully complete the requirements of this  
5 paragraph under paragraph (1) of this subsection (c). Persons  
6 who seek to satisfy the requirements of clause (E) of paragraph  
7 (2) of this subsection (c) through accumulation of CPDUs may  
8 earn credit from the following, provided that each activity is  
9 designed to advance a person's knowledge and skills in relation  
10 to one or more of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards  
11 or in relation to the content-area standards applicable to the  
12 person's field or fields of certification:

13 (A) Collaboration and partnership activities related  
14 to improving a person's knowledge and skills as a teacher,  
15 including all of the following:

16 (i) Peer review and coaching.

17 (ii) Mentoring in a formal mentoring program,  
18 including service as a consulting teacher  
19 participating in a remediation process formulated  
20 under Section 24A-5 of this Code.

21 (iii) Facilitating parent education programs  
22 directly related to student achievement for a school,  
23 school district, or regional office of education.

24 (iv) Participating in business, school, or  
25 community partnerships directly related to student  
26 achievement.

1 (B) Teaching college or university courses in areas  
2 relevant to a teacher's field of certification, provided  
3 that the teaching may only be counted once during the  
4 course of 4 years.

5 (C) Conferences, workshops, institutes, seminars, and  
6 symposiums related to improving a person's knowledge and  
7 skills as a teacher, including all of the following:

8 (i) Completing non-university credit directly  
9 related to student achievement, the Illinois  
10 Professional Teaching Standards, or content-area  
11 standards.

12 (ii) Participating in or presenting at workshops,  
13 seminars, conferences, institutes, and symposiums.

14 (iii) (Blank).

15 (iv) Training as reviewers of university teacher  
16 preparation programs.

17 An activity listed in this clause (C) is creditable  
18 only if its provider is approved for this purpose by the  
19 State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
20 Teacher Certification Board.

21 (D) Other educational experiences related to improving  
22 a person's knowledge and skills as a teacher, including all  
23 of the following:

24 (i) Participating in action research and inquiry  
25 projects.

26 (ii) Observing programs or teaching in schools,



1 related businesses, or industry that is systematic,  
2 purposeful, and relevant to a teacher's field of  
3 certification.

4 (iii) Participating in study groups related to  
5 student achievement, the Illinois Professional  
6 Teaching Standards, or content-area standards.

7 (iv) Participating in work/learn programs or  
8 internships.

9 (v) Developing a portfolio of students' and  
10 teacher's work.

11 (E) Professional leadership experiences related to  
12 improving a person's knowledge and skills as a teacher,  
13 including all of the following:

14 (i) Participating in curriculum development or  
15 assessment activities at the school, school district,  
16 regional office of education, State, or national level.

17 (ii) Participating in team or department  
18 leadership in a school or school district.

19 (iii) (Blank).

20 (iv) Publishing educational articles, columns, or  
21 books relevant to a teacher's field of certification.

22 (v) Participating in non-strike related activities  
23 of a professional association or labor organization  
24 that are related to professional development.

25 (5) A person must complete the requirements of this  
26 subsection (c) before the expiration of his or her Initial

1 Teaching Certificate and must submit assurance of having done  
2 so to the regional superintendent of schools or a local  
3 professional development committee authorized by the regional  
4 superintendent to submit recommendations to him or her for this  
5 purpose.

6 Within 30 days after receipt, the regional superintendent  
7 of schools shall review the assurance of completion submitted  
8 by a person and, based upon compliance with all of the  
9 requirements for receipt of a Standard Teaching Certificate,  
10 shall forward to the State Board of Education a recommendation  
11 for issuance of the Standard Certificate or non-issuance. The  
12 regional superintendent of schools shall notify the affected  
13 person if the recommendation is for non-issuance of the  
14 Standard Certificate. A person who is considered not to be  
15 eligible for a Standard Certificate and who has received the  
16 notice of non-issuance may appeal this determination to the  
17 Regional Professional Development Review Committee (RPDRC).  
18 The recommendation of the regional superintendent and the  
19 RPDRC, along with all supporting materials, must then be  
20 forwarded to the State Board of Education for a final  
21 determination.

22 Upon review of a regional superintendent of school's  
23 recommendations, the State Board of Education shall issue  
24 Standard Teaching Certificates to those who qualify and shall  
25 notify a person, in writing, of a decision denying a Standard  
26 Teaching Certificate. Any decision denying issuance of a

1 Standard Teaching Certificate to a person may be appealed to  
2 the State Teacher Certification Board.

3 (6) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
4 State Teacher Certification Board, may adopt rules to implement  
5 this subsection (c) and may periodically evaluate any of the  
6 methods of qualifying for a Standard Teaching Certificate  
7 described in this subsection (c).

8 (7) The changes made to paragraphs (1) through (5) of this  
9 subsection (c) by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General  
10 Assembly shall apply to those persons who hold or are eligible  
11 to hold an Initial Certificate on or after the effective date  
12 of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and shall  
13 be given effect upon their application for a Standard  
14 Certificate.

15 (8) Beginning July 1, 2004, persons who hold a Standard  
16 Certificate and have acquired one master's degree in an  
17 education-related field are eligible for certificate renewal  
18 upon completion of two-thirds of the continuing professional  
19 development units specified in subdivision (E) of paragraph (3)  
20 of subsection (e) of Section 21-14 of this Code. Persons who  
21 hold a Standard Certificate and have acquired a second master's  
22 degree, an education specialist, or a doctorate in an  
23 education-related field or hold a Master Certificate are  
24 eligible for certificate renewal upon completion of one-third  
25 of the continuing professional development units specified in  
26 subdivision (E) of paragraph (3) of subsection (e) of Section

1 21-14 of this Code.

2 (d) Master Certificate. Persons who have successfully  
3 achieved National Board certification through the National  
4 Board for Professional Teaching Standards shall be issued a  
5 Master Certificate, valid for 10 years and renewable thereafter  
6 every 10 years through compliance with requirements set forth  
7 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State  
8 Teacher Certification Board. However, each teacher who holds a  
9 Master Certificate shall be eligible for a teaching position in  
10 this State in the areas for which he or she holds a Master  
11 Certificate without satisfying any other requirements of this  
12 Code, except for those requirements pertaining to criminal  
13 background checks. A holder of a Master Certificate in an area  
14 of science or social science is eligible to teach in any of the  
15 subject areas within those fields, including those taught at  
16 the advanced level, as defined by the State Board of Education  
17 in consultation with the State Teacher Certification Board. A  
18 teacher who holds a Master Certificate shall be deemed to meet  
19 State certification renewal requirements in the area or areas  
20 for which he or she holds a Master Certificate for the 10-year  
21 term of the teacher's Master Certificate.

22 (Source: P.A. 95-793, eff. 1-1-09.)