

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) This Section applies beginning on July 1, 2012.

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 required
12 prior to the issuance of educator licenses. These examinations
13 and indicators must be based on national and State professional
14 teaching standards, as determined by the State Board of
15 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
16 and Licensure Board. The State Board of Education may adopt
17 such rules as may be necessary to implement and administer this
18 Section. No score on a test required under this Section, other
19 than a test of basic skills, shall be more than 5 years old at
20 the time that an individual makes application for an educator
21 license or endorsement.

22 (c) All applicants ~~Applicants~~ seeking a Professional
23 Educator License or an Educator License with Stipulations shall

1 be required to pass the State Board of Education's recognized a
2 test of basic skills prior to their student teaching, unless
3 required earlier at the discretion of the recognized Illinois
4 institution in which they are in attendance or, unless the
5 endorsement the individual is seeking does not require passage
6 of the test. The passage of a test of basic skills shall not be
7 a prerequisite for admission into a graduate program for
8 speech-language pathology. An individual admitted into a
9 graduate program for speech-language pathology must pass a test
10 of basic skills prior to commencement of his or her full-time
11 school internship. No candidate may be fully admitted into an
12 educator preparation program at a recognized Illinois
13 institution until he or she has passed a test of basic skills.
14 An individual who passes a test of basic skills does not need
15 to do so again for subsequent endorsements or other educator
16 licenses.

17 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be
18 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area
19 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There
20 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall
21 be allowed to student teach, serve as the teacher of record, or
22 begin an internship or residency required for licensure until
23 he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

24 (e) All applicants seeking a State license endorsed in a
25 teaching field shall pass the assessment of professional
26 teaching (APT). Passage of the APT is required for completion

1 of an approved Illinois educator preparation program.

2 (f) Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates
3 completing teacher preparation programs in this State are
4 required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher
5 effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in
6 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
7 Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher
8 preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher
9 performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

10 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and
11 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that
12 from time to time are designated by the State Board of
13 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
14 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an
15 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State
16 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
17 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a
18 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and
19 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess
20 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must
21 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person
22 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,
23 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the
24 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score
25 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of
26 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation

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

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

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

14 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
15 testing requirements under this Section shall include
16 provisions governing test selection, test validation and
17 determination of a passing score, administration of the tests,
18 frequency of administration, applicant fees, frequency of
19 applicants taking the tests, the years for which a score is
20 valid, and appropriate special accommodations. The State Board
21 of Education shall develop such rules as may be needed to
22 ensure uniformity from year to year in the level of difficulty
23 for each form of an assessment.

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