

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-25 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-25)

7 Sec. 21B-25. Endorsement on licenses. All licenses issued  
8 under paragraph (1) of Section 21B-20 of this Code shall be  
9 specifically endorsed by the State Board of Education for each  
10 content area, school support area, and administrative area for  
11 which the holder of the license is qualified. Recognized  
12 institutions approved to offer educator preparation programs  
13 shall be trained to add endorsements to licenses issued to  
14 applicants who meet all of the requirements for the endorsement  
15 or endorsements, including passing any required tests. The  
16 State Superintendent of Education shall randomly audit  
17 institutions to ensure that all rules and standards are being  
18 followed for entitlement or when endorsements are being  
19 recommended.

20 (1) The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
21 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, shall  
22 establish, by rule, the grade level and subject area  
23 endorsements to be added to the Professional Educator

1 License. These rules shall outline the requirements for  
2 obtaining each endorsement.

3 (2) In addition to any and all grade level and content  
4 area endorsements developed by rule, the State Board of  
5 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
6 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall develop the  
7 requirements for the following endorsements:

8 (A) General administrative endorsement. A general  
9 administrative endorsement shall be added to a  
10 Professional Educator License, provided that an  
11 approved program has been completed. An individual  
12 holding a general administrative endorsement may work  
13 only as a principal or assistant principal or in a  
14 related or similar position, as determined by the State  
15 Superintendent of Education, in consultation with the  
16 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

17 Beginning on September 1, 2014, the general  
18 administrative endorsement shall no longer be issued.  
19 Individuals who hold a valid and registered  
20 administrative certificate with a general  
21 administrative endorsement issued under Section 21-7.1  
22 of this Code or a Professional Educator License with a  
23 general administrative endorsement issued prior to  
24 September 1, 2014 and who have served for at least one  
25 full year during the 5 years prior in a position  
26 requiring a general administrative endorsement shall,

1           upon request to the State Board of Education and  
2           through July 1, 2015, have their respective general  
3           administrative endorsement converted to a principal  
4           endorsement on the Professional Educator License.  
5           Candidates shall not be admitted to an approved general  
6           administrative preparation program after September 1,  
7           2012.

8           All other individuals holding a valid and  
9           registered administrative certificate with a general  
10          administrative endorsement issued pursuant to Section  
11          21-7.1 of this Code or a general administrative  
12          endorsement on a Professional Educator License issued  
13          prior to September 1, 2014 shall have the general  
14          administrative endorsement converted to a principal  
15          endorsement on a Professional Educator License upon  
16          request to the State Board of Education and by  
17          completing one of the following pathways:

18                   (i) Passage of the State principal assessment  
19                   developed by the State Board of Education.

20                   (ii) Through July 1, 2019, completion of an  
21                   Illinois Educators' Academy course designated by  
22                   the State Superintendent of Education.

23                   (iii) Completion of a principal preparation  
24                   program established and approved pursuant to  
25                   Section 21B-60 of this Code and applicable rules.

26           Individuals who do not choose to convert the

1           general       administrative       endorsement       on       the  
2       administrative certificate issued pursuant to Section  
3       21-7.1 of this Code or on the Professional Educator  
4       License shall continue to be able to serve in any  
5       position previously allowed under paragraph (2) of  
6       subsection (e) of Section 21-7.1 of this Code.

7           The general administrative endorsement on the  
8       Professional Educator License is available only to  
9       individuals who, prior to September 1, 2014, had such  
10      an endorsement on the administrative certificate  
11      issued pursuant to Section 21-7.1 of this Code or who  
12      already have a Professional Educator License and have  
13      completed a general administrative program and who do  
14      not choose to convert the general administrative  
15      endorsement to a principal endorsement pursuant to the  
16      options in this Section.

17           (B) Principal endorsement. A principal endorsement  
18      shall be affixed to a Professional Educator License of  
19      any holder who qualifies by having all of the  
20      following:

21           (i) Successful completion of a principal  
22      preparation program approved in accordance with  
23      Section 21B-60 of this Code and any applicable  
24      rules.

25           (ii) Four years of teaching or, until June 30,  
26      2019, working in the capacity of school support

1           personnel in a public school or nonpublic school  
2           recognized by the State Board of Education;  
3           however, the State Board of Education, in  
4           consultation with the State Educator Preparation  
5           and Licensure Board, shall allow, by rules, for  
6           fewer than 4 years of experience based on meeting  
7           standards set forth in such rules, including  
8           without limitation a review of performance  
9           evaluations or other evidence of demonstrated  
10          qualifications.

11           (iii) A master's degree or higher from a  
12          regionally accredited college or university.

13          (C) Chief school business official endorsement. A  
14          chief school business official endorsement shall be  
15          affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
16          holder who qualifies by having a master's degree or  
17          higher, 2 years of full-time administrative experience  
18          in school business management or 2 years of  
19          university-approved practical experience, and a  
20          minimum of 24 semester hours of graduate credit in a  
21          program approved by the State Board of Education for  
22          the preparation of school business administrators and  
23          by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief  
24          school business official endorsement may also be  
25          affixed to the Professional Educator License of any  
26          holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in

1 business administration, finance, or accounting and  
2 who completes an additional 6 semester hours of  
3 internship in school business management from a  
4 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
5 and passes the applicable State tests. This  
6 endorsement shall be required for any individual  
7 employed as a chief school business official.

8 (D) Superintendent endorsement. A superintendent  
9 endorsement shall be affixed to the Professional  
10 Educator License of any holder who has completed a  
11 program approved by the State Board of Education for  
12 the preparation of superintendents of schools, has had  
13 at least 2 years of experience employed as a full-time  
14 principal, director of special education, or chief  
15 school business official in the public schools or in a  
16 State-recognized nonpublic school in which the chief  
17 administrator is required to have the licensure  
18 necessary to be a principal in a public school in this  
19 State and where a majority of the teachers are required  
20 to have the licensure necessary to be instructors in a  
21 public school in this State, and has passed the  
22 required State tests; or of any holder who has  
23 completed a program from out-of-state that has a  
24 program with recognition standards comparable to those  
25 approved by the State Superintendent of Education and  
26 holds the general administrative, principal, or chief

1 school business official endorsement and who has had 2  
2 years of experience as a principal, director of special  
3 education, or chief school business official while  
4 holding a valid educator license or certificate  
5 comparable in validity and educational and experience  
6 requirements and has passed the appropriate State  
7 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The  
8 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to  
9 serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
10 superintendent.

11 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the  
12 policy of this State to improve the quality of  
13 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway  
14 for teachers interested in serving in leadership  
15 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of  
16 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
17 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher  
18 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons  
19 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of  
20 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader  
21 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for  
22 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may  
23 qualify to serve in such positions as department  
24 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction  
25 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by  
26 the district. The endorsement shall be available to

1 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator  
2 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a  
3 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have  
4 completed a program of study that has been approved by  
5 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
6 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and  
7 (iv) have taken coursework in all of the following  
8 areas:

9 (I) Leadership.

10 (II) Designing professional development to  
11 meet teaching and learning needs.

12 (III) Building school culture that focuses on  
13 student learning.

14 (IV) Using assessments to improve student  
15 learning and foster school improvement.

16 (V) Building collaboration with teachers and  
17 stakeholders.

18 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in  
19 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement may  
20 evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of this  
21 Code, provided that the individual has completed the  
22 evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of this  
23 Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate  
24 personnel under the respective school district's  
25 collective bargaining agreement.

26 The State Board of Education, in consultation with



1           the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,  
2           may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish  
3           and implement the teacher leader endorsement program  
4           and to specify the positions for which this endorsement  
5           shall be required.

6           (F) Special education endorsement. A special  
7           education endorsement in one or more areas shall be  
8           affixed to a Professional Educator License for any  
9           individual that meets those requirements established  
10          by the State Board of Education in rules. Special  
11          education endorsement areas shall include without  
12          limitation the following:

- 13                   (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;  
14                   (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;  
15                   (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;  
16                   (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;  
17                   (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing; and  
18                   (vi) Early Childhood Special Education.

19          Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,  
20          the State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
21          State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may  
22          add additional areas of special education by rule.

23          (G) School support personnel endorsement. School  
24          support personnel endorsement areas shall include, but  
25          are not limited to, school counselor, marriage and  
26          family therapist, school psychologist, school speech

1 and language pathologist, school nurse, and school  
2 social worker. This endorsement is for individuals who  
3 are not teachers or administrators, but still require  
4 licensure to work in an instructional support position  
5 in a public or State-operated elementary school,  
6 secondary school, or cooperative or joint agreement  
7 with a governing body or board of control or a charter  
8 school operating in compliance with the Charter  
9 Schools Law. The school support personnel endorsement  
10 shall be affixed to the Professional Educator License  
11 and shall meet all of the requirements established in  
12 any rules adopted to implement this subdivision (G).  
13 The holder of such an endorsement is entitled to all of  
14 the rights and privileges granted holders of any other  
15 Professional Educator License, including teacher  
16 benefits, compensation, and working conditions.

17 Beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on April  
18 30, 2014, a person holding a Professional Educator  
19 License with a school speech and language pathologist  
20 (teaching) endorsement may exchange his or her school  
21 speech and language pathologist (teaching) endorsement  
22 for a school speech and language pathologist  
23 (non-teaching) endorsement through application to the  
24 State Board of Education. There shall be no cost for  
25 this exchange.

26 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 98-413, eff. 8-16-13;

1 98-610, eff. 12-27-13.)

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
3 becoming law.