

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) Applicants seeking a Professional Educator License or
23 an Educator License with Stipulations shall be required to pass

1 a test of basic skills, unless the endorsement the individual
2 is seeking does not require passage of the test.

3 No candidate may be fully admitted into an educator
4 preparation program at a recognized Illinois institution until
5 he or she has passed a test of basic skills. An individual who
6 passes a test of basic skills does not need to do so again for
7 subsequent endorsements or other educator licenses.

8 (d) All applicants seeking a State license shall be
9 required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area
10 of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. There
11 shall be no exception to this requirement. No candidate shall
12 be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record,
13 ~~or begin an internship or residency required for licensure~~
14 until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

15 (e) All applicants seeking a State license endorsed in a
16 teaching field shall pass the assessment of professional
17 teaching (APT). Passage of the APT is required for completion
18 of an approved Illinois educator preparation program.

19 (f) Beginning on September 1, 2015, all candidates
20 completing teacher preparation programs in this State are
21 required to pass an evidence-based assessment of teacher
22 effectiveness approved by the State Board of Education, in
23 consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
24 Board. All recognized institutions offering approved teacher
25 preparation programs must begin phasing in the approved teacher
26 performance assessment no later than July 1, 2013.

1 (g) Tests of basic skills and content area knowledge and
2 the assessment of professional teaching shall be the tests that
3 from time to time are designated by the State Board of
4 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
5 and Licensure Board, and may be tests prepared by an
6 educational testing organization or tests designed by the State
7 Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator
8 Preparation and Licensure Board. The areas to be covered by a
9 test of basic skills shall include reading, language arts, and
10 mathematics. The test of content area knowledge shall assess
11 content knowledge in a specific subject field. The tests must
12 be designed to be racially neutral to ensure that no person
13 taking the tests is discriminated against on the basis of race,
14 color, national origin, or other factors unrelated to the
15 person's ability to perform as a licensed employee. The score
16 required to pass the tests shall be fixed by the State Board of
17 Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation
18 and Licensure Board. The tests shall be administered not fewer
19 than 3 times a year at such time and place as may be designated
20 by the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State
21 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board.

22 The State Board shall implement a test or tests to assess
23 the speaking, reading, writing, and grammar skills of
24 applicants for an endorsement or a license issued under
25 subdivision (G) of paragraph (2) of Section 21B-20 of this Code
26 in the English language and in the language of the transitional

1 bilingual education program requested by the applicant.

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

5 (i) The rules developed to implement and enforce the
6 testing requirements under this Section shall include
7 provisions governing test selection, test validation and
8 determination of a passing score, administration of the tests,
9 frequency of administration, applicant fees, frequency of
10 applicants taking the tests, the years for which a score is
11 valid, and appropriate special accommodations. The State Board
12 of Education shall develop such rules as may be needed to
13 ensure uniformity from year to year in the level of difficulty
14 for each form of an assessment.

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

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
17 becoming law.