

1 AN ACT concerning finance.

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 21B-25 and 21B-45 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) At least 4 total ~~Four~~ years of teaching
26 or, until June 30, 2019, working in the capacity of

1 school support personnel in an Illinois a public
2 school or nonpublic school recognized by the State
3 Board of Education or in an out-of-state public
4 school or out-of-state nonpublic school meeting
5 out-of-state recognition standards comparable to
6 those approved by the State Superintendent of
7 Education; however, the State Board of Education,
8 in consultation with the State Educator
9 Preparation and Licensure Board, shall allow, by
10 rules, for fewer than 4 years of experience based
11 on meeting standards set forth in such rules,
12 including without limitation a review of
13 performance evaluations or other evidence of
14 demonstrated qualifications.

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

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

1 by passage of the applicable State tests. The chief
2 school business official endorsement may also be
3 affixed to the Professional Educator License of any
4 holder who qualifies by having a master's degree in
5 business administration, finance, or accounting and
6 who completes an additional 6 semester hours of
7 internship in school business management from a
8 regionally accredited institution of higher education
9 and passes the applicable State tests. This
10 endorsement shall be required for any individual
11 employed as a chief school business official.

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

1 required State tests; or of any holder who has
2 completed a program from out-of-state that has a
3 program with recognition standards comparable to those
4 approved by the State Superintendent of Education and
5 holds the general administrative, principal, or chief
6 school business official endorsement and who has had 2
7 years of experience as a principal, director of special
8 education, or chief school business official while
9 holding a valid educator license or certificate
10 comparable in validity and educational and experience
11 requirements and has passed the appropriate State
12 tests, as provided in Section 21B-30 of this Code. The
13 superintendent endorsement shall allow individuals to
14 serve only as a superintendent or assistant
15 superintendent.

16 (E) Teacher leader endorsement. It shall be the
17 policy of this State to improve the quality of
18 instructional leaders by providing a career pathway
19 for teachers interested in serving in leadership
20 roles, but not as principals. The State Board of
21 Education, in consultation with the State Educator
22 Preparation and Licensure Board, may issue a teacher
23 leader endorsement under this subdivision (E). Persons
24 who meet and successfully complete the requirements of
25 the endorsement shall be issued a teacher leader
26 endorsement on the Professional Educator License for

1 serving in schools in this State. Teacher leaders may
2 qualify to serve in such positions as department
3 chairs, coaches, mentors, curriculum and instruction
4 leaders, or other leadership positions as defined by
5 the district. The endorsement shall be available to
6 those teachers who (i) hold a Professional Educator
7 License, (ii) hold a master's degree or higher from a
8 regionally accredited institution, (iii) have
9 completed a program of study that has been approved by
10 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
11 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, and
12 (iv) have taken coursework in all of the following
13 areas:

14 (I) Leadership.

15 (II) Designing professional development to
16 meet teaching and learning needs.

17 (III) Building school culture that focuses on
18 student learning.

19 (IV) Using assessments to improve student
20 learning and foster school improvement.

21 (V) Building collaboration with teachers and
22 stakeholders.

23 A teacher who meets the requirements set forth in
24 this Section and holds a teacher leader endorsement may
25 evaluate teachers pursuant to Section 24A-5 of this
26 Code, provided that the individual has completed the

1 evaluation component required by Section 24A-3 of this
2 Code and a teacher leader is allowed to evaluate
3 personnel under the respective school district's
4 collective bargaining agreement.

5 The State Board of Education, in consultation with
6 the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board,
7 may adopt such rules as may be necessary to establish
8 and implement the teacher leader endorsement program
9 and to specify the positions for which this endorsement
10 shall be required.

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

- 18 (i) Learning Behavior Specialist I;
- 19 (ii) Learning Behavior Specialist II;
- 20 (iii) Speech Language Pathologist;
- 21 (iv) Blind or Visually Impaired;
- 22 (v) Deaf-Hard of Hearing; and
- 23 (vi) Early Childhood Special Education.

24 Notwithstanding anything in this Code to the contrary,
25 the State Board of Education, in consultation with the
26 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may

1 add additional areas of special education by rule.

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

22 Beginning on January 1, 2014 and ending on April
23 30, 2014, a person holding a Professional Educator
24 License with a school speech and language pathologist
25 (teaching) endorsement may exchange his or her school
26 speech and language pathologist (teaching) endorsement

1 for a school speech and language pathologist
2 (non-teaching) endorsement through application to the
3 State Board of Education. There shall be no cost for
4 this exchange.

5 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 98-413, eff. 8-16-13;
6 98-610, eff. 12-27-13; 98-872, eff. 8-11-14; 98-917, eff.
7 8-15-14; revised 9-2-14.)

8 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

9 Sec. 21B-45. Professional Educator License renewal.

10 (a) Individuals holding a Professional Educator License
11 are required to complete the licensure renewal requirements as
12 specified in this Section, unless otherwise provided in this
13 Code.

14 Individuals holding a Professional Educator License shall
15 meet the renewal requirements set forth in this Section, unless
16 otherwise provided in this Code. If an individual holds a
17 license endorsed in more than one area that has different
18 renewal requirements, that individual shall follow the renewal
19 requirements for the position for which he or she spends the
20 majority of his or her time working.

21 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
22 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
23 year. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon (i)
24 payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State Board
25 of Education or, for individuals holding an Educator License

1 with Stipulations with a paraprofessional educator endorsement
2 only, payment by the applicant of a \$150 penalty to the State
3 Board of Education or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by
4 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
5 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
6 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's endorsement
7 areas. Any and all back fees, including without limitation
8 registration fees owed from the time of expiration of the
9 certificate until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid and
10 kept in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this
11 Code concerning an institute fund and the provisions in Article
12 21B of this Code concerning fees and requirements for
13 registration. Licenses not registered in accordance with
14 Section 21B-40 of this Code shall lapse after a period of 6
15 months from the expiration of the last year of registration. An
16 unregistered license is invalid after September 1 for
17 employment and performance of services in an Illinois public or
18 State-operated school or cooperative and in a charter school.
19 Any license or endorsement may be voluntarily surrendered by
20 the license holder. A voluntarily surrendered license, except a
21 substitute teaching license issued under Section 21B-20 of this
22 Code, shall be treated as a revoked license.

23 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
24 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
25 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
26 administrative endorsement who is working in a position

1 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
2 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
3 this Code, per fiscal year.

4 (d) Beginning July 1, 2014, in order to satisfy the
5 requirements for licensure renewal provided for in this
6 Section, each professional educator licensee may create a
7 professional development plan each year. The plan shall address
8 one or more of the endorsements that are required of his or her
9 educator position if the licensee is employed and performing
10 services in an Illinois public or State-operated school or
11 cooperative. If the licensee is employed in a charter school,
12 the plan shall address that endorsement or those endorsements
13 most closely related to his or her educator position. Licensees
14 employed and performing services in any other Illinois schools
15 may participate in the renewal requirements by adhering to the
16 same process.

17 Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the
18 licensee's professional development activities shall align
19 with one or more of the following criteria:

20 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
21 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
22 discovery, and application as they relate to student
23 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;

24 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
25 performance;

26 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student

1 growth or district improvement;

2 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and

3 (5) higher education coursework.

4 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator
5 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.
6 Within 60 days after the conclusion of a professional
7 development activity, the licensee shall enter electronically
8 into the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,
9 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional
10 development hours, and the provider's name. The following
11 provisions shall apply concerning professional development
12 activities:

13 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours
14 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in
15 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided in
16 this Section.

17 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,
18 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not
19 working in a position requiring such endorsement shall
20 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
21 described in Article 2 of this Code, in each 5-year renewal
22 cycle in which the administrative endorsement was held for
23 at least one year. The Illinois Administrators' Academy
24 course may count toward the total of 120 hours per 5-year
25 cycle.

26 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement

1 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
2 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
3 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
4 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
5 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
6 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
7 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

8 (4) Any licensee holding a current National Board for
9 Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) master teacher
10 designation shall complete a total of 60 hours of
11 professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in order
12 to renew the license.

13 (5) Licensees working in a position that does not
14 require educator licensure or working in a position for
15 less than 50% for any particular year are considered to be
16 exempt and shall be required to pay only the registration
17 fee in order to renew and maintain the validity of the
18 license.

19 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
20 from a State retirement system shall notify the State Board
21 of Education using ELIS, and the license shall be
22 maintained in retired status. An individual with a license
23 in retired status shall not be required to complete
24 professional development activities or pay registration
25 fees until returning to a position that requires educator
26 licensure. Upon returning to work in a position that

1 requires the Professional Educator License, the licensee
2 shall immediately pay a registration fee and complete
3 renewal requirements for that year. A license in retired
4 status cannot lapse.

5 (7) For any renewal cycle in which professional
6 development hours were required, but not fulfilled, the
7 licensee shall complete any missed hours to total the
8 minimum professional development hours required in this
9 Section prior to September 1 of that year. For any fiscal
10 year or renewal cycle in which an Illinois Administrators'
11 Academy course was required but not completed, the licensee
12 shall complete any missed Illinois Administrators' Academy
13 courses prior to September 1 of that year. The licensee may
14 complete all deficient hours and Illinois Administrators'
15 Academy courses while continuing to work in a position that
16 requires that license until September 1 of that year.

17 (8) Any licensee who has not fulfilled the professional
18 development renewal requirements set forth in this Section
19 at the end of any 5-year renewal cycle is ineligible to
20 register his or her license and may submit an appeal to the
21 State Superintendent of Education for reinstatement of the
22 license.

23 (9) If professional development opportunities were
24 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
25 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
26 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be

1 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
2 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
3 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
4 during the extension period.

5 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to the
6 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General
7 Assembly shall commence the annual renewal process with the
8 first scheduled registration due after the effective date
9 of this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly.

10 (f) At the time of renewal, each licensee shall respond to
11 the required questions under penalty of perjury.

12 (g) The following entities shall be designated as approved
13 to provide professional development activities for the renewal
14 of Professional Educator Licenses:

15 (1) The State Board of Education.

16 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
17 service centers.

18 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
19 the following groups that are approved by the State
20 Superintendent of Education:

21 (A) school administrators;

22 (B) principals;

23 (C) school business officials;

24 (D) teachers, including special education
25 teachers;

26 (E) school boards;

- 1 (F) school districts;
2 (G) parents; and
3 (H) school service personnel.

4 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
5 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
6 preparation programs.

7 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
8 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
9 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
10 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
11 education or special education services.

12 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of the
13 effective date of this amendatory Act of the 98th General
14 Assembly, has had or has a grant from or a contract with
15 the State Board of Education to provide professional
16 development services in the area of English Language
17 Learning to Illinois school districts, teachers, or
18 administrators.

19 (h) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
20 shall make available professional development opportunities
21 that satisfy at least one of the following:

22 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
23 district leaders who guide continuous professional
24 development;

25 (2) improve the learning of students;

26 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose

- 1 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;
- 2 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;
- 3 (5) provide educators with research-based
4 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
5 rigorous academic standards;
- 6 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
7 types of classroom assessments;
- 8 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
9 intended goals;
- 10 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
11 collaborate; or
- 12 (9) prepare educators to apply research to
13 decision-making.
- 14 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
15 shall do the following:
- 16 (1) align professional development activities to the
17 State-approved national standards for professional
18 learning;
- 19 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
20 Illinois licensure renewal;
- 21 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
22 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
23 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
24 learning or school improvement;
- 25 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
26 activities; and

1 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
2 completion of activities.

3 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
4 audits of approved providers, except for school districts,
5 which shall be audited by regional offices of education and
6 intermediate service centers. The State Board of Education
7 shall complete random audits of licensees.

8 (1) Approved providers shall annually submit to the
9 State Board of Education a list of subcontractors used for
10 delivery of professional development activities for which
11 renewal credit was issued and other information as defined
12 by rule.

13 (2) Approved providers shall annually submit data to
14 the State Board of Education demonstrating how the
15 professional development activities impacted one or more
16 of the following:

17 (A) educator and student growth in regards to
18 content knowledge or skills, or both;

19 (B) educator and student social and emotional
20 growth; or

21 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
22 plans.

23 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
24 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
25 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
26 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has

1 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
2 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
3 in rules.

4 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
5 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
6 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
7 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed and
8 entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
9 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
10 debit card.

11 (l) Beginning July 1, 2014, any professional educator
12 licensee endorsed for school support personnel who is employed
13 and performing services in Illinois public schools and who
14 holds an active and current professional license issued by the
15 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation related to
16 the endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License
17 shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
18 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
19 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
20 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who does
21 not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial and
22 Professional Regulation shall complete professional
23 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
24 Educator License provided for in this Section.

25 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
26 Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of notice from

1 the State Superintendent of Education that a license will not
2 be renewed based upon failure to complete the requirements of
3 this Section. A licensee may appeal that decision to the State
4 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board in a manner prescribed
5 by rule.

6 (1) Each appeal shall state the reasons why the State
7 Superintendent's decision should be reversed and shall be
8 sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the
9 State Board of Education.

10 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
11 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
12 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
13 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
14 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
15 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
16 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
17 consist of the following:

18 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
19 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
20 if applicable;

21 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
22 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
23 statement of assurance for renewal; and

24 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
25 nonrenewal of the license.

26 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board

1 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding license
2 renewal by certified mail, return receipt requested, no
3 later than 30 days after reaching a decision. Upon receipt
4 of notification of renewal, the licensee, using ELIS, shall
5 pay the applicable registration fee for the next cycle
6 using a form of credit or debit card.

7 (n) The State Board of Education may adopt rules as may be
8 necessary to implement this Section.

9 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 98-610, eff. 12-27-13.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.