

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-45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-45)

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

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

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

19 (b) All Professional Educator Licenses not renewed as
20 provided in this Section shall lapse on September 1 of that
21 year. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon (i)
22 payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State Board
23 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 license ~~certificate~~ until the date of reinstatement, shall be
10 paid and kept in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of
11 this Code concerning an institute fund and the provisions in
12 Article 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 (7) Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
20 Disposition of Property Act.

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

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

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

1 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
2 activities; and

3 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
4 completion of activities.

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

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

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

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

21 (B) educator and student social and emotional
22 growth; or

23 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
24 plans.

25 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
26 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,

1 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
2 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has
3 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
4 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
5 in rules.

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

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

1 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
2 Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of notice from
3 the State Superintendent of Education that a license will not
4 be renewed based upon failure to complete the requirements of
5 this Section. A licensee may appeal that decision to the State
6 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board in a manner prescribed
7 by rule.

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

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

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

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

26 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for

1 nonrenewal of the license.

2 (3) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board
3 shall notify the licensee of its decision regarding license
4 renewal by certified mail, return receipt requested, no
5 later than 30 days after reaching a decision. Upon receipt
6 of notification of renewal, the licensee, using ELIS, shall
7 pay the applicable registration fee for the next cycle
8 using a form of credit or debit card.

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

11 (Source: P.A. 97-607, eff. 8-26-11; 98-610, eff. 12-27-13;
12 98-1147, eff. 12-31-14.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
14 becoming law.