

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 (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by

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

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

1 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
2 this Code, per fiscal year.

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

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

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

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

25 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
26 growth or district improvement;

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

2 (5) higher education coursework.

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

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

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

24 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
25 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
26 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in

1 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
2 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
3 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
4 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
5 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

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

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

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

1 renewal requirements for that year. However, the
2 registration fee does not need to be paid if the licensee
3 is returning to work as a substitute teacher for less than
4 50% of full-time equivalency for any particular school
5 year. A license in retired status cannot lapse.

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

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

24 (9) If professional development opportunities were
25 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
26 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond

1 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
2 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
3 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
4 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
5 during the extension period.

6 (10) Individuals who hold exempt licenses prior to
7 December 27, 2013 (the effective date of Public Act 98-610)
8 ~~this amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly~~ shall
9 commence the annual renewal process with the first
10 scheduled registration due after December 27, 2013 (the
11 effective date of Public Act 98-610) ~~this amendatory Act of~~
12 ~~the 98th General Assembly~~.

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

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

18 (1) The State Board of Education.

19 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
20 service centers.

21 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
22 the following groups that are approved by the State
23 Superintendent of Education:

24 (A) school administrators;

25 (B) principals;

26 (C) school business officials;

1 (D) teachers, including special education
2 teachers;

3 (E) school boards;

4 (F) school districts;

5 (G) parents; and

6 (H) school service personnel.

7 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
8 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
9 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
10 to the Public Community College Act.

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

16 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
17 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147) ~~this~~
18 ~~amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly~~, has had or has
19 a grant from or a contract with the State Board of
20 Education to provide professional development services in
21 the area of English Learning to Illinois school districts,
22 teachers, or administrators.

23 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
24 commissions.

25 (8) ~~(7)~~ Museums as defined in Section 10 of the Museum
26 Disposition of Property Act.

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

4 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
5 district leaders who guide continuous professional
6 development;

7 (2) improve the learning of students;

8 (3) organize adults into learning communities whose
9 goals are aligned with those of the school and district;

10 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

11 (5) provide educators with research-based
12 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
13 rigorous academic standards;

14 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
15 types of classroom assessments;

16 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
17 intended goals;

18 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to
19 collaborate; or

20 (9) prepare educators to apply research to
21 decision-making.

22 (i) Approved providers under subsection (g) of this Section
23 shall do the following:

24 (1) align professional development activities to the
25 State-approved national standards for professional
26 learning;

1 (2) meet the professional development criteria for
2 Illinois licensure renewal;

3 (3) produce a rationale for the activity that explains
4 how it aligns to State standards and identify the
5 assessment for determining the expected impact on student
6 learning or school improvement;

7 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
8 activities; and

9 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
10 completion of activities.

11 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
12 audits of approved providers, except for school districts,
13 which shall be audited by regional offices of education and
14 intermediate service centers. The State Board of Education
15 shall complete random audits of licensees.

16 (1) Approved providers shall annually submit to the
17 State Board of Education a list of subcontractors used for
18 delivery of professional development activities for which
19 renewal credit was issued and other information as defined
20 by rule.

21 (2) Approved providers shall annually submit data to
22 the State Board of Education demonstrating how the
23 professional development activities impacted one or more
24 of the following:

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

1 (B) educator and student social and emotional
2 growth; or

3 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
4 plans.

5 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
6 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
7 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
8 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has
9 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
10 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
11 in rules.

12 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
13 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
14 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
15 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed and
16 entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
17 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
18 debit card.

19 (l) Beginning July 1, 2014, any professional educator
20 licensee endorsed for school support personnel who is employed
21 and performing services in Illinois public schools and who
22 holds an active and current professional license issued by the
23 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation related to
24 the endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License
25 shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
26 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such

1 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
2 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who does
3 not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial and
4 Professional Regulation shall complete professional
5 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
6 Educator License provided for in this Section.

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

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

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

26 (A) the regional superintendent of education's

1 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
2 if applicable;

3 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
4 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
5 statement of assurance for renewal; and

6 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
7 nonrenewal of the license.

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

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

17 (Source: P.A. 98-610, eff. 12-27-13; 98-1147, eff. 12-31-14;
18 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-130, eff. 7-24-15; revised 10-21-15.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.