

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. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section, if
22 a license holder's electronic mail address is available, the
23 State Board of Education shall send him or her notification

1 electronically that his or her license will lapse if not
2 renewed, to be sent no more than 6 months prior to the license
3 lapsing. Lapsed licenses may be immediately reinstated upon (i)
4 payment by the applicant of a \$500 penalty to the State Board
5 of Education or (ii) the demonstration of proficiency by
6 completing 9 semester hours of coursework from a regionally
7 accredited institution of higher education in the content area
8 that most aligns with one or more of the educator's endorsement
9 areas. Any and all back fees, including without limitation
10 registration fees owed from the time of expiration of the
11 license until the date of reinstatement, shall be paid and kept
12 in accordance with the provisions in Article 3 of this Code
13 concerning an institute fund and the provisions in Article 21B
14 of this Code concerning fees and requirements for registration.
15 Licenses not registered in accordance with Section 21B-40 of
16 this Code shall lapse after a period of 6 months from the
17 expiration of the last year of registration. An unregistered
18 license is invalid after September 1 for employment and
19 performance of services in an Illinois public or State-operated
20 school or cooperative and in a charter school. Any license or
21 endorsement may be voluntarily surrendered by the license
22 holder. A voluntarily surrendered license, except a substitute
23 teaching license issued under Section 21B-20 of this Code,
24 shall be treated as a revoked license. An Educator License with
25 Stipulations with only a paraprofessional endorsement does not
26 lapse.

1 (c) From July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, in order to
2 satisfy the requirements for licensure renewal provided for in
3 this Section, each professional educator licensee with an
4 administrative endorsement who is working in a position
5 requiring such endorsement shall complete one Illinois
6 Administrators' Academy course, as described in Article 2 of
7 this Code, per fiscal year.

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

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

- 24 (1) activities are of a type that engage participants
25 over a sustained period of time allowing for analysis,
26 discovery, and application as they relate to student

- 1 learning, social or emotional achievement, or well-being;
- 2 (2) professional development aligns to the licensee's
- 3 performance;
- 4 (3) outcomes for the activities must relate to student
- 5 growth or district improvement;
- 6 (4) activities align to State-approved standards; and
- 7 (5) higher education coursework.

8 (e) For each renewal cycle, each professional educator

9 licensee shall engage in professional development activities.

10 Prior to renewal, the licensee shall enter electronically into

11 the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS) the name,

12 date, and location of the activity, the number of professional

13 development hours, and the provider's name. The following

14 provisions shall apply concerning professional development

15 activities:

16 (1) Each licensee shall complete a total of 120 hours

17 of professional development per 5-year renewal cycle in

18 order to renew the license, except as otherwise provided in

19 this Section.

20 (2) Beginning with his or her first full 5-year cycle,

21 any licensee with an administrative endorsement who is not

22 working in a position requiring such endorsement shall

23 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as

24 described in Article 2 of this Code, in each 5-year renewal

25 cycle in which the administrative endorsement was held for

26 at least one year. The Illinois Administrators' Academy

1 course may count toward the total of 120 hours per 5-year
2 cycle.

3 (3) Any licensee with an administrative endorsement
4 who is working in a position requiring such endorsement or
5 an individual with a Teacher Leader endorsement serving in
6 an administrative capacity at least 50% of the day shall
7 complete one Illinois Administrators' Academy course, as
8 described in Article 2 of this Code, each fiscal year in
9 addition to 100 hours of professional development per
10 5-year renewal cycle in accordance with this Code.

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

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

22 (6) Licensees who are retired and qualify for benefits
23 from a State retirement system shall notify the State Board
24 of Education using ELIS, and the license shall be
25 maintained in retired status. An individual with a license
26 in retired status shall not be required to complete

1 professional development activities or pay registration
2 fees until returning to a position that requires educator
3 licensure. Upon returning to work in a position that
4 requires the Professional Educator License, the licensee
5 shall immediately pay a registration fee and complete
6 renewal requirements for that year. A license in retired
7 status cannot lapse.

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

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

26 (9) If professional development opportunities were

1 unavailable to a licensee, proof that opportunities were
2 unavailable and request for an extension of time beyond
3 August 31 to complete the renewal requirements may be
4 submitted from April 1 through June 30 of that year to the
5 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. If an
6 extension is approved, the license shall remain valid
7 during the extension period.

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

13 (11) Notwithstanding any other provision of this
14 subsection (e), if a licensee earns more than the required
15 number of professional development hours during a renewal
16 cycle, then the licensee may carry over any hours earned
17 from April 1 through June 30 of the last year of the
18 renewal cycle. Any hours carried over in this manner must
19 be applied to the next renewal cycle. Illinois
20 Administrators' Academy courses or hours earned in those
21 courses may not be carried over.

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

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

- 1 (1) The State Board of Education.
- 2 (2) Regional offices of education and intermediate
3 service centers.
- 4 (3) Illinois professional associations representing
5 the following groups that are approved by the State
6 Superintendent of Education:
- 7 (A) school administrators;
- 8 (B) principals;
- 9 (C) school business officials;
- 10 (D) teachers, including special education
11 teachers;
- 12 (E) school boards;
- 13 (F) school districts;
- 14 (G) parents; and
- 15 (H) school service personnel.
- 16 (4) Regionally accredited institutions of higher
17 education that offer Illinois-approved educator
18 preparation programs and public community colleges subject
19 to the Public Community College Act.
- 20 (5) Illinois public school districts, charter schools
21 authorized under Article 27A of this Code, and joint
22 educational programs authorized under Article 10 of this
23 Code for the purposes of providing career and technical
24 education or special education services.
- 25 (6) A not-for-profit organization that, as of December
26 31, 2014 (the effective date of Public Act 98-1147), has

1 had or has a grant from or a contract with the State Board
2 of Education to provide professional development services
3 in the area of English Learning to Illinois school
4 districts, teachers, or administrators.

5 (7) State agencies, State boards, and State
6 commissions.

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

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

12 (1) increase the knowledge and skills of school and
13 district leaders who guide continuous professional
14 development;

15 (2) improve the learning of students;

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

18 (4) deepen educator's content knowledge;

19 (5) provide educators with research-based
20 instructional strategies to assist students in meeting
21 rigorous academic standards;

22 (6) prepare educators to appropriately use various
23 types of classroom assessments;

24 (7) use learning strategies appropriate to the
25 intended goals;

26 (8) provide educators with the knowledge and skills to

1 collaborate; or

2 (9) prepare educators to apply research to
3 decision-making.

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

6 (1) align professional development activities to the
7 State-approved national standards for professional
8 learning;

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

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

15 (4) maintain original documentation for completion of
16 activities; and

17 (5) provide license holders with evidence of
18 completion of activities.

19 (j) The State Board of Education shall conduct annual
20 audits of approved providers, except for school districts,
21 which shall be audited by regional offices of education and
22 intermediate service centers. The State Board of Education
23 shall complete random audits of licensees.

24 (1) Approved providers shall annually submit to the
25 State Board of Education a list of subcontractors used for
26 delivery of professional development activities for which

1 renewal credit was issued and other information as defined
2 by rule.

3 (2) Approved providers shall annually submit data to
4 the State Board of Education demonstrating how the
5 professional development activities impacted one or more
6 of the following:

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

9 (B) educator and student social and emotional
10 growth; or

11 (C) alignment to district or school improvement
12 plans.

13 (3) The State Superintendent of Education shall review
14 the annual data collected by the State Board of Education,
15 regional offices of education, and intermediate service
16 centers in audits to determine if the approved provider has
17 met the criteria and should continue to be an approved
18 provider or if further action should be taken as provided
19 in rules.

20 (k) Registration fees shall be paid for the next renewal
21 cycle between April 1 and June 30 in the last year of each
22 5-year renewal cycle using ELIS. If all required professional
23 development hours for the renewal cycle have been completed and
24 entered by the licensee, the licensee shall pay the
25 registration fees for the next cycle using a form of credit or
26 debit card.

1 (1) Beginning July 1, 2014, any professional educator
2 licensee endorsed for school support personnel who is employed
3 and performing services in Illinois public schools and who
4 holds an active and current professional license issued by the
5 Department of Financial and Professional Regulation related to
6 the endorsement areas on the Professional Educator License
7 shall be deemed to have satisfied the continuing professional
8 development requirements provided for in this Section. Such
9 individuals shall be required to pay only registration fees to
10 renew the Professional Educator License. An individual who does
11 not hold a license issued by the Department of Financial and
12 Professional Regulation shall complete professional
13 development requirements for the renewal of a Professional
14 Educator License provided for in this Section.

15 (m) Appeals to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure
16 Board must be made within 30 days after receipt of notice from
17 the State Superintendent of Education that a license will not
18 be renewed based upon failure to complete the requirements of
19 this Section. A licensee may appeal that decision to the State
20 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board in a manner prescribed
21 by rule.

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

26 (2) The State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board

1 shall review each appeal regarding renewal of a license
2 within 90 days after receiving the appeal in order to
3 determine whether the licensee has met the requirements of
4 this Section. The State Educator Preparation and Licensure
5 Board may hold an appeal hearing or may make its
6 determination based upon the record of review, which shall
7 consist of the following:

8 (A) the regional superintendent of education's
9 rationale for recommending nonrenewal of the license,
10 if applicable;

11 (B) any evidence submitted to the State
12 Superintendent along with the individual's electronic
13 statement of assurance for renewal; and

14 (C) the State Superintendent's rationale for
15 nonrenewal of the license.

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

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

25 (Source: P.A. 98-610, eff. 12-27-13; 98-1147, eff. 12-31-14;
26 99-58, eff. 7-16-15; 99-130, eff. 7-24-15; 99-591, eff. 1-1-17;

1 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

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