

# HB5050



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5050

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Maura Hirschauer

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/21B-20

Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides the additional requirement of successfully completing at least one foundational course on English learners for a person to be issued a Professional Educator License. Effective January 1, 2028.

LRB104 17883 LNS 34100 b

A BILL FOR

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-20 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/21B-20)

7 Sec. 21B-20. Types of licenses. The State Board of  
8 Education shall implement a system of educator licensure,  
9 whereby individuals employed in school districts who are  
10 required to be licensed must have one of the following  
11 licenses: (i) a professional educator license; (ii) an  
12 educator license with stipulations; (iii) a substitute  
13 teaching license; or (iv) until June 30, 2028, a short-term  
14 substitute teaching license. References in law regarding  
15 individuals certified or certificated or required to be  
16 certified or certificated under Article 21 of this Code shall  
17 also include individuals licensed or required to be licensed  
18 under this Article. The first year of all licenses ends on June  
19 30 following one full year of the license being issued.

20 The State Board of Education, in consultation with the  
21 State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may adopt such  
22 rules as may be necessary to govern the requirements for  
23 licenses and endorsements under this Section.

1           (1) Professional Educator License. Persons who (i)  
2           have successfully completed an approved educator  
3           preparation program and are recommended for licensure by  
4           the Illinois institution offering the educator preparation  
5           program, (ii) have successfully completed the required  
6           testing under Section 21B-30 of this Code, (iii) have  
7           successfully completed coursework on the psychology of,  
8           the identification of, and the methods of instruction for  
9           the exceptional child, including, without limitation,  
10          children with learning disabilities, (iv) have  
11          successfully completed coursework in methods of reading  
12          and reading in the content area, (v) have successfully  
13          completed at least one foundational course on English  
14          learners, which shall include instruction in language  
15          acquisition and English learner pedagogy, inclusive  
16          classroom practices, and the importance of student  
17          belonging, and (vi) ~~(v)~~ have met all other criteria  
18          established by rule of the State Board of Education shall  
19          be issued a Professional Educator License. Persons seeking  
20          a Professional Educator License with a school support  
21          personnel endorsement or chief school business official  
22          endorsement are exempt from the requirements in items  
23          (iii) and (iv). All Professional Educator Licenses are  
24          valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
25          license being issued. The Professional Educator License  
26          shall be endorsed with specific areas and grade levels in

1           which the individual is eligible to practice. For an early  
2           childhood education endorsement, an individual may satisfy  
3           the student teaching requirement of his or her early  
4           childhood teacher preparation program through placement in  
5           a setting with children from birth through grade 2, and  
6           the individual may be paid and receive credit while  
7           student teaching. The student teaching experience must  
8           meet the requirements of and be approved by the  
9           individual's early childhood teacher preparation program.  
10          No institution of higher education shall establish or  
11          maintain any policy which requires student teaching for  
12          preservice teachers to be unpaid.

13                 Individuals can receive subsequent endorsements on the  
14          Professional Educator License. Subsequent endorsements  
15          shall require a minimum of 24 semester hours of coursework  
16          in the endorsement area and passage of the applicable  
17          content area test, unless otherwise specified by rule.

18                 (2) Educator License with Stipulations. An Educator  
19          License with Stipulations shall be issued an endorsement  
20          that limits the license holder to one particular position  
21          or does not require completion of an approved educator  
22          program or both.

23                 An individual with an Educator License with  
24          Stipulations must not be employed by a school district or  
25          any other entity to replace any presently employed teacher  
26          who otherwise would not be replaced for any reason.

1           An Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
2 with the following endorsements:

3           (A) (Blank).

4           (B) Alternative provisional educator. An  
5 alternative provisional educator endorsement on an  
6 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
7 applicant who, at the time of applying for the  
8 endorsement, has done all of the following:

9           (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
10 college or university with a minimum of a  
11 bachelor's degree.

12           (ii) Successfully completed the first phase of  
13 the Alternative Educator Licensure Program for  
14 Teachers, as described in Section 21B-50 of this  
15 Code.

16           (iii) Passed a content area test, as required  
17 under Section 21B-30 of this Code.

18           The alternative provisional educator endorsement is  
19 valid for 2 years of teaching and may be renewed for a  
20 third year by an individual meeting the requirements set  
21 forth in Section 21B-50 of this Code.

22           (C) Alternative provisional superintendent. An  
23 alternative provisional superintendent endorsement on  
24 an Educator License with Stipulations entitles the  
25 holder to serve only as a superintendent or assistant  
26 superintendent in a school district's central office.

1 This endorsement may only be issued to an applicant  
2 who, at the time of applying for the endorsement, has  
3 done all of the following:

4 (i) Graduated from a regionally accredited  
5 college or university with a minimum of a master's  
6 degree in a management field other than education.

7 (ii) Been employed for a period of at least 5  
8 years in a management level position in a field  
9 other than education.

10 (iii) Successfully completed the first phase  
11 of an alternative route to superintendent  
12 endorsement program, as provided in Section 21B-55  
13 of this Code.

14 (iv) Passed a content area test required under  
15 Section 21B-30 of this Code.

16 The endorsement is valid for 2 fiscal years in  
17 order to complete one full year of serving as a  
18 superintendent or assistant superintendent.

19 (D) (Blank).

20 (E) Career and technical educator. A career and  
21 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
22 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
23 has a minimum of 60 semester hours of coursework from a  
24 regionally accredited institution of higher education  
25 or an accredited trade and technical institution and  
26 has a minimum of 2,000 hours of experience outside of

1 education in each area to be taught.

2 The career and technical educator endorsement on  
3 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
4 June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
5 endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

6 An individual who holds a valid career and  
7 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
8 with Stipulations but does not hold a bachelor's  
9 degree may substitute teach in career and technical  
10 education classrooms.

11 An individual who holds a valid career and  
12 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
13 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
14 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
15 Educator License.

16 (F) (Blank).

17 (G) Transitional bilingual educator. A  
18 transitional bilingual educator endorsement on an  
19 Educator License with Stipulations may be issued for  
20 the purpose of providing instruction in accordance  
21 with Article 14C of this Code to an applicant who  
22 provides satisfactory evidence that he or she meets  
23 all of the following requirements:

24 (i) Possesses adequate speaking, reading, and  
25 writing ability in the language other than English  
26 in which transitional bilingual education is

1           offered.

2           (ii) Has the ability to successfully  
3           communicate in English.

4           (iii) Either possessed, within 5 years  
5           previous to his or her applying for a transitional  
6           bilingual educator endorsement, a valid and  
7           comparable teaching certificate or comparable  
8           authorization issued by a foreign country or holds  
9           a degree from an institution of higher learning in  
10          a foreign country that the State Educator  
11          Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
12          the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
13          regionally accredited institution of higher  
14          learning in the United States.

15          A transitional bilingual educator endorsement  
16          shall be valid for prekindergarten through grade 12,  
17          is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
18          of the endorsement being issued, and shall not be  
19          renewed.

20          Persons holding a transitional bilingual educator  
21          endorsement shall not be employed to replace any  
22          presently employed teacher who otherwise would not be  
23          replaced for any reason.

24          (H) Language endorsement. In an effort to  
25          alleviate the shortage of teachers speaking a language  
26          other than English in the public schools, an

1 individual who holds an Educator License with  
2 Stipulations may also apply for a language  
3 endorsement, provided that the applicant provides  
4 satisfactory evidence that he or she meets all of the  
5 following requirements:

6 (i) Holds a transitional bilingual  
7 endorsement.

8 (ii) Has demonstrated proficiency in the  
9 language for which the endorsement is to be issued  
10 by passing the applicable language content test  
11 required by the State Board of Education.

12 (iii) Holds a bachelor's degree or higher from  
13 a regionally accredited institution of higher  
14 education or, for individuals educated in a  
15 country other than the United States, holds a  
16 degree from an institution of higher learning in a  
17 foreign country that the State Educator  
18 Preparation and Licensure Board determines to be  
19 the equivalent of a bachelor's degree from a  
20 regionally accredited institution of higher  
21 learning in the United States.

22 (iv) (Blank).

23 A language endorsement on an Educator License with  
24 Stipulations is valid for prekindergarten through  
25 grade 12 for the same validity period as the  
26 individual's transitional bilingual educator

1 endorsement on the Educator License with Stipulations  
2 and shall not be renewed.

3 (I) Visiting international educator. A visiting  
4 international educator endorsement on an Educator  
5 License with Stipulations may be issued to an  
6 individual who is being recruited by a particular  
7 school district that conducts formal recruitment  
8 programs outside of the United States to secure the  
9 services of qualified teachers and who meets all of  
10 the following requirements:

11 (i) Holds the equivalent of a minimum of a  
12 bachelor's degree issued in the United States.

13 (ii) Has been prepared as a teacher at the  
14 grade level for which he or she will be employed.

15 (iii) Has adequate content knowledge in the  
16 subject to be taught.

17 (iv) Has an adequate command of the English  
18 language.

19 A holder of a visiting international educator  
20 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
21 shall be permitted to teach in bilingual education  
22 programs in the language that was the medium of  
23 instruction in his or her teacher preparation program,  
24 provided that he or she passes the English Language  
25 Proficiency Examination or another test of writing  
26 skills in English identified by the State Board of

1 Education, in consultation with the State Educator  
2 Preparation and Licensure Board.

3 A visiting international educator endorsement on  
4 an Educator License with Stipulations is valid for 5  
5 years and shall not be renewed.

6 (J) Paraprofessional educator. A paraprofessional  
7 educator endorsement on an Educator License with  
8 Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who holds a  
9 high school diploma or its recognized equivalent and  
10 (i) holds an associate's degree or a minimum of 60  
11 semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited  
12 institution of higher education; (ii) has passed a  
13 paraprofessional competency test under subsection  
14 (c-5) of Section 21B-30; or (iii) is at least 18 years  
15 of age and will be using the Educator License with  
16 Stipulations exclusively for grades prekindergarten  
17 through grade 8, until the individual reaches the age  
18 of 19 years and otherwise meets the criteria for a  
19 paraprofessional educator endorsement pursuant to this  
20 subparagraph (J). The paraprofessional educator  
21 endorsement is valid until June 30 immediately  
22 following 5 years of the endorsement being issued and  
23 may be renewed through application and payment of the  
24 appropriate fee, as required under Section 21B-40 of  
25 this Code. An individual who holds only a  
26 paraprofessional educator endorsement is not subject

1 to additional requirements in order to renew the  
2 endorsement.

3 (K) Chief school business official. A chief school  
4 business official endorsement on an Educator License  
5 with Stipulations may be issued to an applicant who  
6 qualifies by having a master's degree or higher, 2  
7 years of full-time administrative experience in school  
8 business management or 2 years of university-approved  
9 practical experience, and a minimum of 24 semester  
10 hours of graduate credit in a program approved by the  
11 State Board of Education for the preparation of school  
12 business administrators and by passage of the  
13 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
14 content area test.

15 The chief school business official endorsement may  
16 also be affixed to the Educator License with  
17 Stipulations of any holder who qualifies by having a  
18 master's degree in business administration, finance,  
19 accounting, or public administration and who completes  
20 an additional 6 semester hours of internship in school  
21 business management from a regionally accredited  
22 institution of higher education and passes the  
23 applicable State tests, including an applicable  
24 content area test. This endorsement shall be required  
25 for any individual employed as a chief school business  
26 official.

1           The chief school business official endorsement on  
2           an Educator License with Stipulations is valid until  
3           June 30 immediately following 5 years of the  
4           endorsement being issued and may be renewed if the  
5           license holder completes renewal requirements as  
6           required for individuals who hold a Professional  
7           Educator License endorsed for chief school business  
8           official under Section 21B-45 of this Code and such  
9           rules as may be adopted by the State Board of  
10          Education.

11          The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules  
12          necessary to implement Public Act 100-288.

13          (L) Provisional in-state educator. A provisional  
14          in-state educator endorsement on an Educator License  
15          with Stipulations may be issued to a candidate who has  
16          completed an Illinois-approved educator preparation  
17          program at an Illinois institution of higher education  
18          and who has not successfully completed an  
19          evidence-based assessment of teacher effectiveness but  
20          who meets all of the following requirements:

21                 (i) Holds at least a bachelor's degree.

22                 (ii) Has completed an approved educator  
23                 preparation program at an Illinois institution.

24                 (iii) Has passed an applicable content area  
25                 test, as required by Section 21B-30 of this Code.

26                 (iv) Has attempted an evidence-based

1 assessment of teacher effectiveness and received a  
2 minimum score on that assessment, as established  
3 by the State Board of Education in consultation  
4 with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure  
5 Board.

6 A provisional in-state educator endorsement on an  
7 Educator License with Stipulations is valid for one  
8 full fiscal year after the date of issuance and may not  
9 be renewed.

10 (M) (Blank).

11 (N) Specialized services. A specialized services  
12 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
13 may be issued as defined and specified by rule.

14 (O) Provisional career and technical educator. A  
15 provisional career and technical educator endorsement  
16 on an Educator License with Stipulations may be issued  
17 to an applicant who has a minimum of 8,000 hours of  
18 work experience in the skill for which the applicant  
19 is seeking the endorsement. Each employing school  
20 board and regional office of education shall provide  
21 verification, in writing, to the State Superintendent  
22 of Education at the time the application is submitted  
23 that no qualified teacher holding a Professional  
24 Educator License or an Educator License with  
25 Stipulations with a career and technical educator  
26 endorsement is available to teach and that actual

1           circumstances require such issuance.

2           A provisional career and technical educator  
3 endorsement on an Educator License with Stipulations  
4 is valid until June 30 immediately following 5 years  
5 of the endorsement being issued and may be renewed.

6           An individual who holds a provisional career and  
7 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
8 with Stipulations may teach as a substitute teacher in  
9 career and technical education classrooms.

10          An individual who holds a provisional career and  
11 technical educator endorsement on an Educator License  
12 with Stipulations is entitled to all of the rights and  
13 privileges granted to a holder of a Professional  
14 Educator License.

15          (3) Substitute Teaching License. A Substitute Teaching  
16 License may be issued to qualified applicants for  
17 substitute teaching in all grades of the public schools,  
18 prekindergarten through grade 12. Substitute Teaching  
19 Licenses are not eligible for endorsements. Applicants for  
20 a Substitute Teaching License must hold a bachelor's  
21 degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution  
22 of higher education or must be enrolled in an approved  
23 educator preparation program in this State and have earned  
24 at least 90 credit hours.

25          Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for 5 years.

26          Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for substitute

1 teaching in every county of this State. If an individual  
2 has had his or her Professional Educator License or  
3 Educator License with Stipulations suspended or revoked,  
4 then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
5 Substitute Teaching License.

6 A substitute teacher may only teach in the place of a  
7 licensed teacher who is under contract with the employing  
8 board. If, however, there is no licensed teacher under  
9 contract because of an emergency situation, then a  
10 district may employ a substitute teacher for no longer  
11 than 30 calendar days per each vacant position in the  
12 district if the district notifies the appropriate regional  
13 office of education within 5 business days after the  
14 employment of the substitute teacher in that vacant  
15 position. A district may continue to employ that same  
16 substitute teacher in that same vacant position for 90  
17 calendar days or until the end of the semester, whichever  
18 is greater, if, prior to the expiration of the  
19 30-calendar-day period then current, the district files a  
20 written request with the appropriate regional office of  
21 education for a 30-calendar-day extension on the basis  
22 that the position remains vacant and the district  
23 continues to actively seek qualified candidates and  
24 provides documentation that it has provided training  
25 specific to the position, including training on meeting  
26 the needs of students with disabilities and English

1 learners if applicable. Each extension request shall be  
2 granted in writing by the regional office of education. An  
3 emergency situation is one in which an unforeseen vacancy  
4 has occurred and (i) a teacher is unexpectedly unable to  
5 fulfill his or her contractual duties or (ii) teacher  
6 capacity needs of the district exceed previous indications  
7 or vacancies are unfilled due to a lack of qualified  
8 candidates, and the district is actively engaged in  
9 advertising to hire a fully licensed teacher for the  
10 vacant position.

11 There is no limit on the number of days that a  
12 substitute teacher may teach in a single school district,  
13 provided that no substitute teacher may teach for longer  
14 than 120 days beginning with the 2021-2022 school year  
15 through the 2022-2023 school year, otherwise 90 school  
16 days for any one licensed teacher under contract in the  
17 same school year. A substitute teacher who holds a  
18 Professional Educator License or Educator License with  
19 Stipulations shall not teach for more than 120 school days  
20 for any one licensed teacher under contract in the same  
21 school year. The limitations in this paragraph (3) on the  
22 number of days a substitute teacher may be employed do not  
23 apply to any school district operating under Article 34 of  
24 this Code.

25 A school district may not require an individual who  
26 holds a valid Professional Educator License or Educator

1 License with Stipulations to seek or hold a Substitute  
2 Teaching License to teach as a substitute teacher.

3 (4) Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. Beginning  
4 on July 1, 2018 and until June 30, 2028, applicants may  
5 apply to the State Board of Education for issuance of a  
6 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License. A Short-Term  
7 Substitute Teaching License may be issued to a qualified  
8 applicant for substitute teaching in all grades of the  
9 public schools, prekindergarten through grade 12.  
10 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are not eligible  
11 for endorsements. Applicants for a Short-Term Substitute  
12 Teaching License must hold an associate's degree or have  
13 completed at least 60 credit hours from a regionally  
14 accredited institution of higher education.

15 Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses are valid for  
16 substitute teaching in every county of this State. If an  
17 individual has had his or her Professional Educator  
18 License or Educator License with Stipulations suspended or  
19 revoked, then that individual is not eligible to obtain a  
20 Short-Term Substitute Teaching License.

21 The provisions of Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of this  
22 Code apply to short-term substitute teachers.

23 An individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
24 License may teach no more than 15 consecutive days per  
25 licensed teacher who is under contract. For teacher  
26 absences lasting 6 or more days per licensed teacher who

1 is under contract, a school district may not hire an  
2 individual holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching  
3 License, unless the Governor has declared a disaster due  
4 to a public health emergency pursuant to Section 7 of the  
5 Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act. An individual  
6 holding a Short-Term Substitute Teaching License must  
7 complete the training program under Section 10-20.67 or  
8 34-18.60 of this Code to be eligible to teach at a public  
9 school. Short-Term Substitute Teaching Licenses under this  
10 Section are valid for 5 years.

11 (Source: P.A. 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-154, eff. 6-30-23;  
12 103-193, eff. 1-1-24; 103-564, eff. 11-17-23; 103-617, eff.  
13 7-1-24; 104-128, eff. 1-1-26; 104-316, eff. 8-15-25; revised  
14 11-20-25.)

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
16 1, 2028.