

**Subject:** Post-Primary Action in Springfield: Progress and Pending Amendments on Education Bills  
**From:** "Illinois Principals Association" <alison@ilprincipals.org>  
**Date:** 3/25/2024, 7:39 AM  
**To:** mcateed@mokena159.org



March 25, 2024

## Post-Primary Action in Springfield

After Tuesday's Primary Election, legislators returned to Springfield to resume work on education bills and other matters. While many bills progressed during committee action, several are still awaiting amendments to address concerns from advocates representing school leaders, including the IPA. See below for more details on the pending legislation.

The General Assembly will take a week off and return on April 2.

### House Teacher Shortage Working Group

Speaker Welch created a new working group designed to address the issue of vacancies in Illinois schools and exploring ways to recruit and retain qualified educators.

Members of the working group include Reps. **Katie Stuart (Chair)**, **Harry Benton**, **Sharon Chung**, **Fred Crespo**, **Will Davis**, **Laura Faver Dias**, **Michelle Mussman**, **Aaron Ortiz**, and **Sue Scherer**.

The most recent unfilled positions report can be found on the [Illinois State Board of Education website](#).

### Bills that Passed Committees

*These bills have been approved by their respective committees and are now awaiting votes in the full House or Senate chamber.*

#### **HB4219 (Yang Rohr) - SCH CD-FENTANYL EDUCATION**

Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, requires one unit of instruction, study, and discussion on the dangers of fentanyl in the State-required health courses for grades 6 through 8. (**Public Act 103-365** requires identical instruction in grades 9-12.)

***\*IPA's Alison Maley has been working with the sponsor and ISBE to include this information within the Comprehensive Health Education Program in an age-appropriate manner in grades 6-8.***

#### **HB5434 (J. Davis) - SCH CD-ENROLLMENT-CONFIRMATION**

Requires that a student shall remain on the attendance rolls of a school district until a cause for disenrollment is given and confirmed with specified documentation. Required documentation includes: (1) A death certificate; (2) A physician's note regarding extended illness; (3) Written proof of medical non-compliance; (4) Written proof of expulsion; (5) Written documentation of the student no longer being of school age; (6) Graduation documentation; (7) Program completion documentation; (8) Enrollment documentation from another school district.

Requires the school district report card to contain data concerning the number of students who remained on the school district's attendance rolls, and the length of time in which each student remained on the school district's attendance rolls but was not attending school.

Changes the definition of "chronic or habitual truant." The definition does not include students kept on a school's attendance rolls while a school district is waiting on documentation regarding the whereabouts or enrollment status of a student.

#### **HB4895 (Yang Rohr) - SCH CD-CLIMATE CHANGE EDUC**

As introduced, requires every public high school (beginning in the 2025-2025SY) to require a unit of instruction addressing climate change in either a required science class or a required social studies class.

***\*IPA's Alison Maley has been working with the sponsor and ISBE to amend the bill to include climate change within the required instruction on conservation of natural resources and in alignment with Illinois learning standards.***

#### **House Resolution 599 (Lilly) - IHSA-ELIMINATE TRANSFER LIMITS**

Urges the elimination of the Illinois High School Association's (IHSA) authority to restrict eligible student-athletes from transferring schools.

#### **HB5364 (Benton) - SCH CD-MILITARY DEPENDENTS**

***IPA, IASA, and IASB opposed*** - Requires a school district allow a dependent of United States military personnel who is housed in temporary housing located outside of a school district, but will be living within the district within 6 months after the time of initial enrollment, to be educated through an electronic learning program or remote learning program for the time period that the dependent is housed in temporary housing.

If a dependent of United States military personnel is moving out of the State because the United States military personnel received a permanent change of station order, then the student shall be allowed to remain enrolled in the school district and be educated through an electronic learning program or remote learning program until a student enrolls in another school district.

***\*IASB representatives testified in opposition to the bill and will be working with the sponsor to resolve opposition.***

#### **HB4955 (Scherer) - SCH CD-STATE ASSESSMENTS**

As amended, the bill prohibits ISBE from providing funding for any standardized assessment or test any students in grades kindergarten through 6 beyond the requirements of the federal Every

Student Succeeds Act. Also requires ISBE to explore any assessment flexibility afforded to states through waivers under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

### **HB1745 (Hammond) - EDUCATION-TECH**

As amended, the bill creates a 2-year provisional educator license. Eligible applicants must have completed a State-approved educator preparation program, an educator preparation program approved by another state, or a comparable educator program in another country and who meets all of the following requirements:

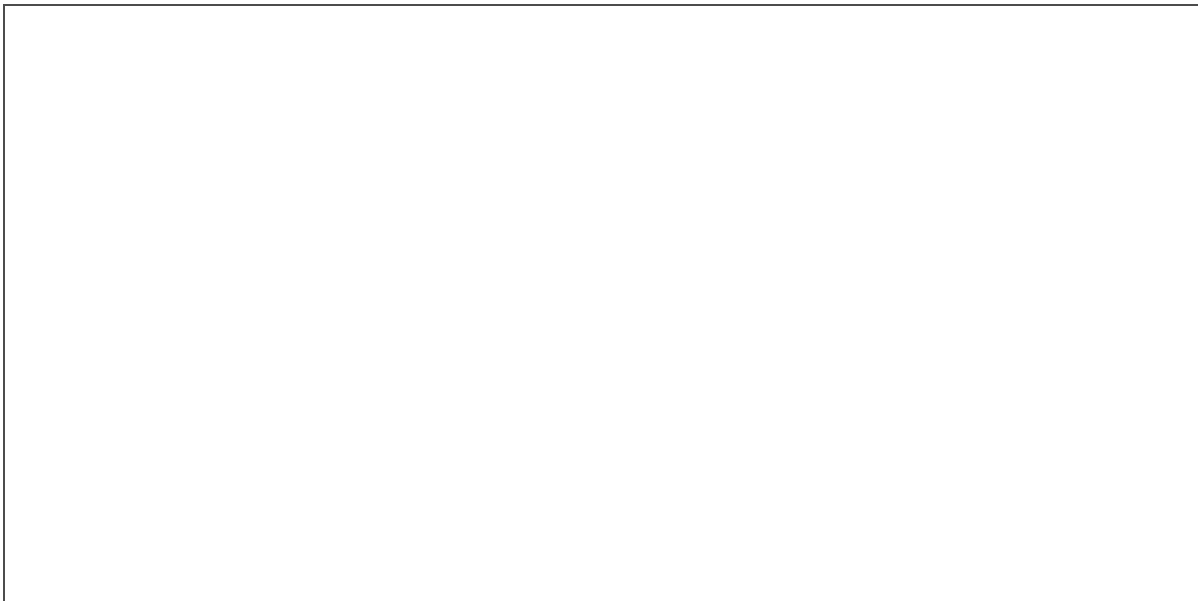
1. The candidate has completed the educator preparation program or comparable educator program with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent.
2. The candidate has taken a test of content area knowledge at least once but failed to pass the test.

### **HB5057 (Scherer) - SCH CD-PRIMARY SCH TEACH TEST**

As amended, the bill requires ISBE to establish a content area test for applicants seeking a State license to teach in any of grades kindergarten through 5. The test shall include foundational teaching skills and methods that are developmentally and educationally appropriate for students in grades kindergarten through 5.

In addition to this test, the State Board of Education shall establish specialty content area tests for an optional endorsement in advanced mathematics, music, and physical education for applicants seeking an endorsement in advanced mathematics, music, or physical education.

**See more bills here**



### **URGENT: Your Action Needed Now!**

Your voice matters as the General Assembly finalizes the state budget. Take action now to advocate for Principal Mentoring and Principal Recruitment programs.

***Contact your local legislators today!***

**Click Here to Support Principal Mentoring & Recruitment**

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## What's to come...

### Tuesday, March 26

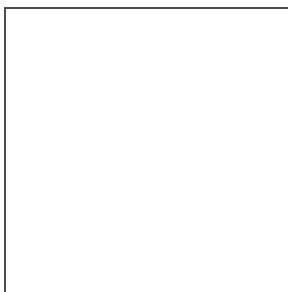
12:00pm - **Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education Committee** (House)  
SUBJECT MATTER: Illinois Education Association, Community and Residential Services Authority, Career & Technical Education

### Tuesday, April 9

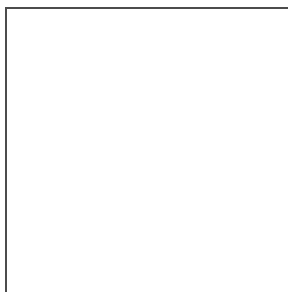
12:00pm - **Appropriations-Elementary & Secondary Education Committee (House)**  
SUBJECT MATTER: Teach for America, After School Matters, YouthBuild, Advance Illinois

**Bills Assigned to Senate Education Committee**  
**Bills Assigned to House Education - Curriculum & Policies Committee**  
**Bills Assigned to House Education - Administration & Licensing Committee**

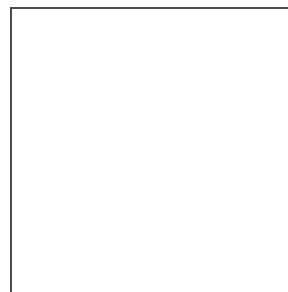
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IPA BILL TRACKER



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