

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 Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act is
5 amended by changing Sections 10, 15, 20, 25, and 30 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 48/10)

7 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act:

8 "Accredited teacher preparation program" means a
9 regionally accredited, Illinois approved teacher education
10 program authorized to prepare individuals to fulfill all of the
11 requirements to receive an Illinois initial teaching
12 certificate.

13 "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who
14 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and
15 are linked by their desire to become Illinois teachers in
16 hard-to-staff schools and by their need for the services and
17 supports offered by the Initiative.

18 "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization
19 that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and
20 organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that
21 will hold the school and the school district accountable for
22 achieving high academic standards; in addition to
23 organizations with a geographic focus, "community

1 organization" includes general parent organizations,
2 organizations of special education or bilingual education
3 parents, and school employee unions.

4 "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill
5 areas, such as mathematics and language arts that are
6 prerequisite to, but not counted towards, degree requirements
7 of a teacher preparation program.

8 "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle, or
9 secondary school in this State that serves a substantial
10 percentage of low-income students and that is either hard to
11 staff or has hard-to-staff teaching positions, including, but
12 not limited to, an early childhood program licensed by the
13 Department of Children and Family Services in which no less
14 than 60% of the children it serves are receiving subsidized
15 care under the Department of Human Services' Child Care
16 Assistance Program, Head Start or Early Head Start Program,
17 Preschool for All Program, or a prevention initiative.

18 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle,
19 or secondary school in this State that, based on data compiled
20 by the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Board
21 of Higher Education, serves a substantial percentage of
22 low-income students, as defined by the Board of Higher
23 Education.

24 "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching
25 category (such as special education, bilingual education,
26 mathematics, or science) in which statewide data compiled by

1 the State Board of Education in conjunction with the Board of
2 Higher Education indicates a multi-year pattern of substantial
3 teacher shortage or that has been identified as a critical need
4 by the local school board.

5 "Initiative" means the Grow Your Own Teacher Education
6 Initiative created under this Act.

7 "Para educator" means an individual with a history of
8 demonstrated accomplishments in school staff positions (such
9 as teacher assistants, school-community liaisons, school
10 clerks, and security aides) in schools that meet the definition
11 of a hard-to-staff school under this Section.

12 "Parent and community leader" means an individual who has
13 or had a child enrolled in a school or schools that meet the
14 definition of a hard-to-staff school under this Section and who
15 has a history of active involvement in the school or who has a
16 history of working to improve schools serving a substantial
17 percentage of low-income students, including membership in a
18 community organization.

19 "Program" means a Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program
20 established by a consortium under this Act.

21 "Schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income
22 students" means schools that maintain any of grades
23 pre-kindergarten through 8, in which at least 35% of the
24 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches
25 and schools that maintain any of grades 9 through 12, in which
26 at least 25% of the students are eligible to receive free or

1 reduced price lunches.

2 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

3 (110 ILCS 48/15)

4 Sec. 15. Creation of Initiative. The Grow Your Own Teacher
5 Education Initiative is created. Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The~~
6 ~~Board of Higher Education~~ shall administer the Initiative as a
7 grant competition to fund consortia that will carry out Grow
8 Your Own Teacher preparation programs.

9 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

10 (110 ILCS 48/20)

11 Sec. 20. Selection of grantees. The Board of Higher
12 Education shall, subject to appropriation, allocate funds to
13 Grow Your Own Illinois for the purpose of administering the
14 program and awarding ~~award~~ grants as needed to qualified
15 consortia that reflect the distribution and diversity of
16 hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff positions across this
17 State. In awarding grants, Grow Your Own Illinois ~~the Board of~~
18 ~~Higher Education~~ shall select programs that successfully
19 address Initiative criteria and that reflect a diversity of
20 strategies in terms of serving urban areas, serving rural
21 areas, the nature of the participating institutions of higher
22 education, and the nature of hard-to-staff schools and
23 hard-to-staff teaching positions on which a program is focused.

24 Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ shall

1 select, manage, and oversee consortia that meet the following
2 requirements:

3 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one
4 4-year institution of higher education with an Illinois
5 approved teacher preparation program, at least one school
6 district or group of schools, and one or more community
7 organizations. The consortium membership may also include
8 a 2-year institution of higher education, a school employee
9 union, or a regional office of education.

10 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education
11 participating in the consortium shall have past,
12 demonstrated success in preparing teachers for elementary
13 or secondary schools serving a substantial percentage of
14 low-income students.

15 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set
16 of eligible schools that will participate in the program.
17 The consortium shall articulate the steps that it will
18 carry out in preparing teachers for its participating
19 schools and in preparing teachers for one or more
20 hard-to-staff teaching positions in those schools.

21 (4) The consortium shall recruit potential candidates
22 for the program and shall take into consideration when
23 selecting a candidate whether the candidate:

24 (A) holds a high school diploma or its equivalent;

25 (B) meets either the definition of "parent and
26 community leader" or the definition of "para educator"

1 contained in Section 10 of this Act;

2 (C) has experienced an interruption in his or her
3 college education;

4 (D) exhibits a willingness to be a teacher in a
5 hard-to-staff school with the goal of maintaining
6 academic excellence;

7 (E) shows an interest in postsecondary education
8 and may hold an associate's degree, a bachelor's
9 degree, or another postsecondary degree, but a
10 postsecondary education is not required;

11 (F) is a parent, a para educator, a community
12 leader, or any other individual from a community with a
13 hard-to-staff school;

14 (G) commits to completing and passing all State
15 standards, including the licensure test to obtain an
16 educator license;

17 (H) shows a willingness to set high standards of
18 performance for himself or herself and students; and

19 (I) demonstrates commitment to the program by:

20 (i) maintaining a cumulative grade point
21 average of at least a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale (or the
22 equivalent as determined by the Board of Higher
23 Education);

24 (ii) attending monthly cohort meetings; and

25 (iii) applying for financial aid from all
26 other financial aid resources before applying for

1 assistance from the program.

2 (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures
3 for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare
4 highly competent teachers. Professional preparation shall
5 include on-going direct experience in target schools and
6 evaluation of this experience.

7 (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts
8 of candidates, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, on a
9 schedule that enables candidates to work full time while
10 participating in the program and allows para educators to
11 continue in their current positions. In any fiscal year in
12 which an appropriation for the Initiative is made, the
13 consortium shall guarantee that support will be available
14 to an admitted cohort for the cohort's education for that
15 fiscal year. At the beginning of the Initiative, programs
16 that are already operating and existing cohorts of
17 candidates under this model shall be eligible for funding.

18 (7) The institutions of higher education participating
19 in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the
20 same amount of funds in implementing the program that these
21 institutions spend per student on similar educational
22 programs. Grants received by the consortium shall
23 supplement and not supplant these amounts.

24 (8) Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher~~
25 ~~Education~~ shall establish and oversee additional criteria
26 for review of proposals, including criteria that address

1 the following issues:

2 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of
3 higher education in preparing candidates for
4 hard-to-staff schools and positions and in working
5 with students with non-traditional backgrounds.

6 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,
7 including strategies for overcoming institutional
8 barriers to the progress of non-traditional
9 candidates.

10 (C) If a community college is a participant, the
11 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements
12 and guarantees between the community college and the
13 4-year institution of higher education.

14 (D) The number of candidates to be educated in the
15 planned cohort or cohorts and the capacity of the
16 consortium for adding cohorts in future cycles.

17 (E) Experience of the community organization or
18 organizations in organizing parents and community
19 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong
20 relational school culture.

21 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons
22 designated by the 4-year institution of higher
23 education to be responsible for cohort support and the
24 development of a shared learning and social
25 environment among candidates.

26 (G) The consortium's plan for collective

1 consortium decision-making, involving all consortium
2 members, including mechanisms for candidate input.

3 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the
4 program on the quality of education in the eligible
5 schools.

6 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of
7 the eligible schools and positions, and the use in
8 curriculum and instructional planning of principles
9 for effective education for adults.

10 (J) The availability of classes under the program
11 in places and times accessible to the candidates.

12 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be
13 maintained by candidates as a condition of continuing
14 in the program.

15 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher
16 education to ensure that candidates take advantage of
17 existing financial aid resources before using the loan
18 funds described in Section 25 of this Act.

19 (M) The availability of supportive services,
20 including, but not limited to, counseling, tutoring,
21 transportation, technology and technology support, and
22 child care.

23 (N) A plan for continued participation of
24 graduates of the program in a program of support for at
25 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

26 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation

1 of candidates' teaching skills that ensures that
2 graduates of the program are as prepared for teaching
3 as other individuals completing the institution of
4 higher education's preparation program for the
5 certificate sought.

6 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides
7 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates
8 towards graduation and the impact of the program on the
9 target schools and their communities.

10 (Q) Contributions from schools, school districts,
11 and other consortia members to the program, including
12 stipends for candidates during their student teaching.

13 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the
14 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced
15 requirements for external funding, in subsequent
16 cycles.

17 (S) The inclusion in the planned program of
18 strategies derived from community organizing that will
19 help candidates develop tools for working with parents
20 and other community members.

21 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

22 (110 ILCS 48/25)

23 Sec. 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

24 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement a
25 program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of tuition,

1 books, and fees of candidates under the program in excess of
2 the candidates' grants-in-aid. All students admitted to a
3 cohort shall be eligible for a forgivable student loan. Loans
4 shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes 5 years of
5 service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching
6 positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of
7 service. Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~
8 shall establish standards for the approval of requests for
9 waivers or deferrals from individuals to waive this obligation
10 and. ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ shall also define standards
11 for the fiscal management of these loan funds.

12 (b) Grow Your Own Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~
13 shall award grants under the Initiative in such a way as to
14 provide the required support for a cohort of candidates for any
15 fiscal year in which an appropriation for the Initiative is
16 made. Program budgets must show expenditures and needed funds
17 for the entire period that candidates are expected to be
18 enrolled.

19 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant
20 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of
21 higher education for candidates.

22 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the
23 costs of child care and other indirect expenses, such as
24 transportation, tutoring, technology, and technology support,
25 necessary to permit candidates to maintain their class
26 schedules. Grant funds may be used by any member of a

1 consortium to offset such costs, and the services may be
2 provided by the community organization or organizations, by any
3 other member of the consortium, or by independent contractors.

4 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant
5 funds to cover the additional costs of offering classes in
6 community settings and for tutoring services.

7 (f) The community organization or organizations may
8 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of
9 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of
10 potential candidates, for providing space in the community, and
11 for working with school personnel to facilitate individual work
12 experiences and support of candidates.

13 (g) The school district or school employee union or both
14 may receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of
15 supporting the work experiences of candidates and providing
16 mentors for graduates. Notwithstanding the provisions of
17 Section 10-20.15 of the School Code, school districts may also
18 use these or other applicable public funds to pay participants
19 in programs under the Initiative for student teaching required
20 by an accredited teacher preparation program.

21 (h) One or more members of the consortium may expend funds
22 to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

23 (i) Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for
24 required developmental classes for candidates beginning a
25 program.

26 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

1 (110 ILCS 48/30)

2 Sec. 30. Implementation of Initiative. Grow Your Own
3 Illinois ~~The Board of Higher Education~~ may, if it chooses,
4 award and administer a small number of planning grants during
5 any fiscal year to potential consortia.

6 (Source: P.A. 98-1036, eff. 1-1-15.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
8 2018.