



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3900

Introduced 10/17/2019, by Rep. La Shawn K. Ford

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.71b new

Amends the School Code. Requires each school district maintaining elementary grades to ensure that a developmentally appropriate half-day preschool education program that helps children with their interpersonal and socialization skills is provided for (i) each child in the district who has been identified as a child with a disability in accordance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and who is 3 or 4 years of age by August 1 and (ii) each child in the district who is at risk of educational failure and who is 4 years of age by August 1. Provides that all other 4-year-old children shall be served to the extent placements are available. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules establishing guidelines for the program and to receive and review proposals from school districts for grants to operate or oversee the operation of programs. Sets forth program proposal and funding requirements. Effective July 1, 2020.

LRB101 14208 NHT 63079 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

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 adding Section  
5 2-3.71b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71b new)

7 Sec. 2-3.71b. Preschool for children with disabilities and  
8 children at risk of educational failure; grants.

9 (a) In this Section, "developmentally appropriate" means a  
10 focus on the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional  
11 development of young children.

12 (b) Each school district maintaining elementary grades  
13 shall ensure that a developmentally appropriate half-day  
14 preschool education program that helps children with their  
15 interpersonal and socialization skills is provided for (i) each  
16 child in the district who has been identified as a child with a  
17 disability in accordance with the federal Individuals with  
18 Disabilities Education Act and who is 3 or 4 years of age by  
19 August 1 and (ii) each child in the district who is at risk of  
20 educational failure and who is 4 years of age by August 1.  
21 Children who are at risk of educational failure shall be  
22 identified based on the National School Lunch Program's  
23 eligibility criteria for a free lunch. All other 4-year-old

1 children shall be served to the extent placements are  
2 available. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules  
3 establishing the guidelines for the program. The rules shall  
4 establish eligibility criteria, program guidelines, and  
5 standards for personnel.

6 (c) In addition to grants administered under Section  
7 2-3.71, the State Board of Education shall receive and review  
8 proposals from school districts for grants to operate or  
9 oversee the operation of developmentally appropriate preschool  
10 education programs under this Section. Districts may submit  
11 proposals for implementing new services, enhancing existing  
12 preschool education services, or contracting for services. In  
13 designing a program, a district shall work with existing  
14 preschool programs to avoid duplication of programs and  
15 services, to avoid supplanting federal funds, and to maximize  
16 Head Start program funds in order to serve as many 4-year-old  
17 children as possible. School districts may develop cooperative  
18 arrangements with other school districts or organizations for  
19 the purposes of this Section.

20 (d) Each program proposal under this Section shall include,  
21 at a minimum, all of the following:

22 (1) A description of the process conducted by the  
23 school district to ensure that the parents or guardians of  
24 all eligible participants have been made aware of the  
25 program and of their right to participate.

26 (2) A description of the planned educational

1 programming and related services.

2 (3) The estimated number of children participating in  
3 the program.

4 (4) Strategies for involving children with  
5 disabilities.

6 (5) The estimated ratio of staff to children, with the  
7 maximum being one adult for each 10 children.

8 (6) The estimated percentage of children participating  
9 in the program who are at risk of educational failure.

10 (7) Information on the training and qualifications of  
11 program staff and documentation that the staff meet  
12 required standards.

13 (8) A budget and per-child expenditure estimate.

14 (9) A plan to facilitate active parental involvement in  
15 the program, including provisions for complementary parent  
16 education, if appropriate.

17 (10) The facilities and equipment that are appropriate  
18 for young children.

19 (11) The days of the week and hours of a day during  
20 which the program shall operate.

21 (12) A plan for coordinating the program with existing  
22 medical and social services, including a child development  
23 and health screening component.

24 (13) Assurances that participants shall receive  
25 breakfast or lunch.

26 (14) A program site that meets State and local

1       licensure requirements.

2           (15) A plan for coordinating program philosophy and  
3       activities with the district's elementary school program.

4           (16) An evaluation component.

5           (17) Certification from the Head Start program  
6       director that the Head Start program is fully utilized  
7       pursuant to subsection (c).

8       (e) Funds appropriated by the General Assembly for  
9       preschool education programs under this Section shall be  
10       granted to school districts according to a grant allotment  
11       system approved by the State Board of Education. Appropriations  
12       for the purposes of this Section shall be separate from all  
13       other funds appropriated to the State Board of Education and  
14       shall be administered in accordance with applicable federal and  
15       State statutes and rules. Eligible school districts shall  
16       receive funds based on the average number of preschool children  
17       being served on December 1 and March 1 of the prior school year  
18       who are appropriately identified as (i) 3 or 4 years of age  
19       with disabilities, in which case the child is eligible for a  
20       free and appropriate preschool education and related services,  
21       or (ii) 4 years of age and at risk of educational failure.

22       (f) Programs funded under this Section shall reflect an  
23       equitable geographic distribution representative of all areas  
24       of this State.

25           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
26       2020.