

SB3533



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB3533

Introduced 2/9/2024, by Sen. Tom Bennett

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/14C-3

from Ch. 122, par. 14C-3

Amends the Transitional Bilingual Education Article of the School Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a program in transitional bilingual education shall include a unit of instruction that teaches English learners about American civics and culture. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Advisory Council on Bilingual Education, shall establish and publish learning standards for a school district to utilize for this unit of instruction. Effective immediately.

LRB103 38924 RJT 69061 b

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 changing Section
5 14C-3 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/14C-3) (from Ch. 122, par. 14C-3)

7 Sec. 14C-3. Language classification of children;
8 establishment of program; period of participation;
9 examination.

10 (a) Each school district shall ascertain, not later than
11 the first day of March, under regulations prescribed by the
12 State Board, the number of English learners within the school
13 district, and shall classify them according to the language of
14 which they possess a primary speaking ability, and their grade
15 level, age or achievement level.

16 (b) When, at the beginning of any school year, there is
17 within an attendance center of a school district, not
18 including children who are enrolled in existing private school
19 systems, 20 or more English learners in any such language
20 classification, the school district shall establish, for each
21 classification, a program in transitional bilingual education
22 for the children therein. A school district may establish a
23 program in transitional bilingual education with respect to

1 any classification with less than 20 children therein, but
2 should a school district decide not to establish such a
3 program, the school district shall provide a locally
4 determined transitional program of instruction which, based
5 upon an individual student language assessment, provides
6 content area instruction in a language other than English to
7 the extent necessary to ensure that each student can benefit
8 from educational instruction and achieve an early and
9 effective transition into the regular school curriculum.

10 (c) Every school-age English learner not enrolled in
11 existing private school systems shall be enrolled and
12 participate in the program in transitional bilingual education
13 established for the classification to which he belongs by the
14 school district in which he resides for a period of 3 years or
15 until such time as he achieves a level of English language
16 skills which will enable him to perform successfully in
17 classes in which instruction is given only in English,
18 whichever shall first occur.

19 An English learner enrolled in a program in transitional
20 bilingual education may, in the discretion of the school
21 district and subject to the approval of the child's parent or
22 legal guardian, continue in that program for a period longer
23 than 3 years.

24 (d) An examination in the oral language (listening and
25 speaking), reading, and writing of English, as prescribed by
26 the State Board, shall be administered annually to all English

1 learners enrolled and participating in a program in
2 transitional bilingual education. No school district shall
3 transfer an English learner out of a program in transitional
4 bilingual education prior to his third year of enrollment
5 therein unless the parents of the child approve the transfer
6 in writing, and unless the child has received a score on said
7 examination which, in the determination of the State Board,
8 reflects a level of English language skills appropriate to his
9 or her grade level.

10 If later evidence suggests that a child so transferred is
11 still disabled by an inadequate command of English, he may be
12 re-enrolled in the program for a length of time equal to that
13 which remained at the time he was transferred.

14 (e) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, a program in
15 transitional bilingual education shall include a unit of
16 instruction that teaches English learners about American
17 civics and culture. The State Board of Education, in
18 consultation with the Advisory Council on Bilingual Education
19 created under Section 14C-13, shall establish and publish
20 learning standards for a school district to utilize for this
21 unit of instruction.

22 (Source: P.A. 98-972, eff. 8-15-14; 99-30, eff. 7-10-15.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.