

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 the
5 heading of Article 14A and Sections 14A-15, 14A-25, and 14A-35
6 and by adding Sections 14A-17 and 14A-32 as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/Art. 14A heading)

8 ARTICLE 14A. GIFTED AND TALENTED CHILDREN AND CHILDREN ELIGIBLE
9 FOR ACCELERATED PLACEMENT

10 (Source: P.A. 94-151, eff. 7-8-05; 94-410, eff. 8-2-05.)

11 (105 ILCS 5/14A-15)

12 Sec. 14A-15. Purpose. The purpose of this Article is to
13 provide encouragement, assistance, and guidance to school
14 districts in the development and improvement of educational
15 programs for gifted and talented children and children eligible
16 for accelerated placement as defined in Sections ~~Section~~ 14A-20
17 and 14A-17 of this Code. School districts shall continue to
18 have the authority and flexibility to design education programs
19 for gifted and talented children in response to community
20 needs, but these programs must comply with the requirements
21 established in Section 14A-30 of this Code by no later than
22 September 1, 2006 in order to merit approval by the State Board

1 of Education in order to qualify for State funding for the
2 education of gifted and talented children, should such funding
3 become available.

4 (Source: P.A. 94-151, eff. 7-8-05; 94-410, eff. 8-2-05.)

5 (105 ILCS 5/14A-17 new)

6 Sec. 14A-17. Accelerated placement. For purposes of this
7 Article, "accelerated placement" means the placement of a child
8 in an educational setting with curriculum that is usually
9 reserved for children who are older or in higher grades than
10 the child. "Accelerated placement" under this Article or other
11 school district-adopted policies shall include, but need not be
12 limited to, the following types of acceleration: early entrance
13 to kindergarten or first grade, accelerating a child in a
14 single subject, and grade acceleration.

15 (105 ILCS 5/14A-25)

16 Sec. 14A-25. Non-discrimination. Eligibility for
17 participation in programs established pursuant to this Article
18 shall be determined solely through identification of a child as
19 gifted, ~~or~~ talented, or eligible for accelerated placement. No
20 program or placement shall condition participation upon race,
21 religion, sex, disability, or any factor other than the
22 identification of the child as gifted, ~~or~~ talented, or eligible
23 for placement.

24 (Source: P.A. 94-151, eff. 7-8-05; 94-410, eff. 8-2-05.)

1 (105 ILCS 5/14A-32 new)

2 Sec. 14A-32. Accelerated placement; school district
3 responsibilities.

4 (a) Each school district shall have a policy that allows
5 for accelerated placement that includes or incorporates by
6 reference the following components:

7 (1) a provision that provides that participation in
8 accelerated placement is not limited to those children who
9 have been identified as gifted and talented, but rather is
10 open to all children who demonstrate high ability and who
11 may benefit from accelerated placement;

12 (2) a fair and equitable decision-making process that
13 involves multiple persons and includes a student's parents
14 or guardians;

15 (3) procedures for notifying parents or guardians of a
16 child of a decision affecting that child's participation in
17 an accelerated placement program; and

18 (4) an assessment process that includes multiple
19 valid, reliable indicators.

20 (b) Further, a school district's accelerated placement
21 policy may include or incorporate by reference, but need not be
22 limited to, the following components:

23 (1) procedures for annually informing the community
24 at-large, including parents or guardians, about the
25 accelerated placement program and the methods used for the

1 identification of children eligible for accelerated
2 placement;

3 (2) a process for referral that allows for multiple
4 referrers, including a child's parents or guardians; other
5 referrers may include licensed education professionals,
6 the child, with the written consent of a parent or
7 guardian, a peer, through a licensed education
8 professional who has knowledge of the referred child's
9 abilities, or, in case of possible early entrance, a
10 preschool educator, pediatrician, or psychologist who
11 knows the child; and

12 (3) a provision that provides that children
13 participating in an accelerated placement program and
14 their parents or guardians will be provided a written plan
15 detailing the type of acceleration the child will receive
16 and strategies to support the child.

17 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to
18 determine data to be collected regarding accelerated placement
19 and a method of making the information available to the public.

20 (105 ILCS 5/14A-35)

21 Sec. 14A-35. Administrative functions of the State Board of
22 Education for gifted and talented children programs.

23 (a) The State Board of Education must designate a staff
24 person who shall be in charge of educational programs for
25 gifted and talented children. This staff person shall, at a

1 minimum, (i) be responsible for developing an approval process
2 for educational programs for gifted and talented children by no
3 later than September 1, 2006, (ii) receive and maintain the
4 written descriptions of all programs for gifted and talented
5 children in the State, (iii) collect and maintain the annual
6 growth in learning data submitted by a school, school district,
7 or cooperative of school districts, (iv) identify potential
8 funding sources for the education of gifted and talented
9 children, and (v) serve as the main contact person at the State
10 Board of Education for program supervisors and other school
11 officials, parents, and other stakeholders regarding the
12 education of gifted and talented children.

13 (b) Subject to the availability of funds for these
14 purposes, the State Board of Education may perform a variety of
15 additional administrative functions with respect to the
16 education of gifted and talented children, including, but not
17 limited to, supervision, quality assurance, compliance
18 monitoring, and oversight of local programs, analysis of
19 performance outcome data submitted by local educational
20 agencies, the establishment of personnel standards, and a
21 program of personnel development for teachers and
22 administrative personnel in the education of gifted and
23 talented children.

24 (Source: P.A. 94-151, eff. 7-8-05; 94-410, eff. 8-2-05.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
26 2018.