

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 10-22.31 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.31) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.31)  
7 Sec. 10-22.31. Special education.

8 (a) To enter into joint agreements with other school boards  
9 to provide the needed special educational facilities and to  
10 employ a director and other professional workers as defined in  
11 Section 14-1.10 and to establish facilities as defined in  
12 Section 14-1.08 for the types of children described in Sections  
13 14-1.02 and 14-1.03a. The director (who may be employed under a  
14 contract as provided in subsection (c) of this Section) and  
15 other professional workers may be employed by one district,  
16 which shall be reimbursed on a mutually agreed basis by other  
17 districts that are parties to the joint agreement. Such  
18 agreements may provide that one district may supply  
19 professional workers for a joint program conducted in another  
20 district. Such agreement shall provide that any full-time  
21 professional worker who is employed by a joint agreement  
22 program and spends over 50% of his or her time in one school  
23 district shall not be required to work a different teaching

1 schedule than the other professional worker in that district.  
2 Such agreement shall include, but not be limited to, provisions  
3 for administration, staff, programs, financing, housing,  
4 transportation, an advisory body, and the method or methods to  
5 be employed for disposing of property upon the withdrawal of a  
6 school district or dissolution of the joint agreement and shall  
7 specify procedures for the withdrawal of districts from the  
8 joint agreement as long as these procedures are consistent with  
9 this Section. Such agreement may be amended at any time as  
10 provided in the joint agreement or, if the joint agreement does  
11 not so provide, then such agreement may be amended at any time  
12 upon the adoption of concurring resolutions by the school  
13 boards of all member districts, provided that no later than 6  
14 months after August 28, 2009 (the effective date of Public Act  
15 96-783), all existing agreements shall be amended to be  
16 consistent with Public Act 96-783. Such an amendment may  
17 include the removal of a school district from or the addition  
18 of a school district to the joint agreement without a petition  
19 as otherwise required in this Section if all member districts  
20 adopt concurring resolutions to that effect. A fully executed  
21 copy of any such agreement or amendment entered into on or  
22 after January 1, 1989 shall be filed with the State Board of  
23 Education. Petitions for withdrawal shall be made to the  
24 regional board or boards of school trustees exercising  
25 oversight or governance over any of the districts in the joint  
26 agreement. Upon receipt of a petition for withdrawal, the

1 regional board of school trustees shall publish notice of and  
2 conduct a hearing or, in instances in which more than one  
3 regional board of school trustees exercises oversight or  
4 governance over any of the districts in the joint agreement, a  
5 joint hearing, in accordance with rules adopted by the State  
6 Board of Education. In instances in which a single regional  
7 board of school trustees holds the hearing, approval of the  
8 petition must be by a two-thirds majority vote of the school  
9 trustees. In instances in which a joint hearing of 2 or more  
10 regional boards of school trustees is required, approval of the  
11 petition must be by a two-thirds majority of all those school  
12 trustees present and voting. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
13 Article 6 of this Code, in instances in which the competent  
14 regional board or boards of school trustees has been abolished,  
15 petitions for withdrawal shall be made to the school boards of  
16 those districts that fall under the oversight or governance of  
17 the abolished regional board of school trustees in accordance  
18 with rules adopted by the State Board of Education. If any  
19 petition is approved pursuant to this subsection (a), the  
20 withdrawal takes effect as provided in Section 7-9 of this Act.  
21 The changes to this Section made by Public Act 96-769 apply to  
22 all changes to special education joint agreement membership  
23 initiated after July 1, 2009.

24 (b) To either (1) designate an administrative district to  
25 act as fiscal and legal agent for the districts that are  
26 parties to the joint agreement, or (2) designate a governing

1 board composed of one member of the school board of each  
2 cooperating district and designated by such boards to act in  
3 accordance with the joint agreement. No such governing board  
4 may levy taxes and no such governing board may incur any  
5 indebtedness except within an annual budget for the joint  
6 agreement approved by the governing board and by the boards of  
7 at least a majority of the cooperating school districts or a  
8 number of districts greater than a majority if required by the  
9 joint agreement. The governing board may appoint an executive  
10 board of at least 7 members to administer the joint agreement  
11 in accordance with its terms. However, if 7 or more school  
12 districts are parties to a joint agreement that does not have  
13 an administrative district: (i) at least a majority of the  
14 members appointed by the governing board to the executive board  
15 shall be members of the school boards of the cooperating  
16 districts; or (ii) if the governing board wishes to appoint  
17 members who are not school board members, they shall be  
18 superintendents from the cooperating districts.

19 (c) To employ a full-time director of special education of  
20 the joint agreement program under a one-year or multi-year  
21 contract. No such contract can be offered or accepted for less  
22 than one year. Such contract may be discontinued at any time by  
23 mutual agreement of the contracting parties, or may be extended  
24 for an additional one-year or multi-year period at the end of  
25 any year.

26 The contract year is July 1 through the following June

1 30th, unless the contract specifically provides otherwise.  
2 Notice of intent not to renew a contract when given by a  
3 controlling board or administrative district must be in writing  
4 stating the specific reason therefor. Notice of intent not to  
5 renew the contract must be given by the controlling board or  
6 the administrative district at least 90 days before the  
7 contract expires. Failure to do so will automatically extend  
8 the contract for one additional year.

9 By accepting the terms of the contract, the director of a  
10 special education joint agreement waives all rights granted  
11 under Sections 24-11 through 24-16 for the duration of his or  
12 her employment as a director of a special education joint  
13 agreement.

14 (d) To designate a district that is a party to the joint  
15 agreement as the issuer of bonds or notes for the purposes and  
16 in the manner provided in this Section. It is not necessary for  
17 such district to also be the administrative district for the  
18 joint agreement, nor is it necessary for the same district to  
19 be designated as the issuer of all series of bonds or notes  
20 issued hereunder. Any district so designated may, from time to  
21 time, borrow money and, in evidence of its obligation to repay  
22 the borrowing, issue its negotiable bonds or notes for the  
23 purpose of acquiring, constructing, altering, repairing,  
24 enlarging and equipping any building or portion thereof,  
25 together with any land or interest therein, necessary to  
26 provide special educational facilities and services as defined

1 in Section 14-1.08. Title in and to any such facilities shall  
2 be held in accordance with the joint agreement.

3 Any such bonds or notes shall be authorized by a resolution  
4 of the board of education of the issuing district. The  
5 resolution may contain such covenants as may be deemed  
6 necessary or advisable by the district to assure the payment of  
7 the bonds or notes. The resolution shall be effective  
8 immediately upon its adoption.

9 Prior to the issuance of such bonds or notes, each school  
10 district that is a party to the joint agreement shall agree,  
11 whether by amendment to the joint agreement or by resolution of  
12 the board of education, to be jointly and severally liable for  
13 the payment of the bonds and notes. The bonds or notes shall be  
14 payable solely and only from the payments made pursuant to such  
15 agreement.

16 Neither the bonds or notes nor the obligation to pay the  
17 bonds or notes under any joint agreement shall constitute an  
18 indebtedness of any district, including the issuing district,  
19 within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory  
20 limitation.

21 As long as any bonds or notes are outstanding and unpaid,  
22 the agreement by a district to pay the bonds and notes shall be  
23 irrevocable notwithstanding the district's withdrawal from  
24 membership in the joint special education program.

25 (e) If a district whose employees are on strike was, prior  
26 to the strike, sending students with disabilities to special

1 educational facilities and services in another district or  
2 cooperative, the district affected by the strike shall continue  
3 to send such students during the strike and shall be eligible  
4 to receive appropriate State reimbursement.

5 (f) With respect to those joint agreements that have a  
6 governing board composed of one member of the school board of  
7 each cooperating district and designated by those boards to act  
8 in accordance with the joint agreement, the governing board  
9 shall have, in addition to its other powers under this Section,  
10 the authority to issue bonds or notes for the purposes and in  
11 the manner provided in this subsection. The governing board of  
12 the joint agreement may from time to time borrow money and, in  
13 evidence of its obligation to repay the borrowing, issue its  
14 negotiable bonds or notes for the purpose of acquiring,  
15 constructing, altering, repairing, enlarging and equipping any  
16 building or portion thereof, together with any land or interest  
17 therein, necessary to provide special educational facilities  
18 and services as defined in Section 14-1.08 and including also  
19 facilities for activities of administration and educational  
20 support personnel employees. Title in and to any such  
21 facilities shall be held in accordance with the joint  
22 agreement.

23 Any such bonds or notes shall be authorized by a resolution  
24 of the governing board. The resolution may contain such  
25 covenants as may be deemed necessary or advisable by the  
26 governing board to assure the payment of the bonds or notes and

1 interest accruing thereon. The resolution shall be effective  
2 immediately upon its adoption.

3 Each school district that is a party to the joint agreement  
4 shall be automatically liable, by virtue of its membership in  
5 the joint agreement, for its proportionate share of the  
6 principal amount of the bonds and notes plus interest accruing  
7 thereon, as provided in the resolution. Subject to the joint  
8 and several liability hereinafter provided for, the resolution  
9 may provide for different payment schedules for different  
10 districts except that the aggregate amount of scheduled  
11 payments for each district shall be equal to its proportionate  
12 share of the debt service in the bonds or notes based upon the  
13 fraction that its equalized assessed valuation bears to the  
14 total equalized assessed valuation of all the district members  
15 of the joint agreement as adjusted in the manner hereinafter  
16 provided. In computing that fraction the most recent available  
17 equalized assessed valuation at the time of the issuance of the  
18 bonds and notes shall be used, and the equalized assessed  
19 valuation of any district maintaining grades K to 12 shall be  
20 doubled in both the numerator and denominator of the fraction  
21 used for all of the districts that are members of the joint  
22 agreement. In case of default in payment by any member, each  
23 school district that is a party to the joint agreement shall  
24 automatically be jointly and severally liable for the amount of  
25 any deficiency. The bonds or notes and interest thereon shall  
26 be payable solely and only from the funds made available



1 pursuant to the procedures set forth in this subsection. No  
2 project authorized under this subsection may require an annual  
3 contribution for bond payments from any member district in  
4 excess of 0.15% of the value of taxable property as equalized  
5 or assessed by the Department of Revenue in the case of  
6 districts maintaining grades K-8 or 9-12 and 0.30% of the value  
7 of taxable property as equalized or assessed by the Department  
8 of Revenue in the case of districts maintaining grades K-12.  
9 This limitation on taxing authority is expressly applicable to  
10 taxing authority provided under Section 17-9 and other  
11 applicable Sections of this Act. Nothing contained in this  
12 subsection shall be construed as an exception to the property  
13 tax limitations contained in Section 17-2, 17-2.2a, 17-5, or  
14 any other applicable Section of this Act.

15 Neither the bonds or notes nor the obligation to pay the  
16 bonds or notes under any joint agreement shall constitute an  
17 indebtedness of any district within the meaning of any  
18 constitutional or statutory limitation.

19 As long as any bonds or notes are outstanding and unpaid,  
20 the obligation of a district to pay its proportionate share of  
21 the principal of and interest on the bonds and notes as  
22 required in this Section shall be a general obligation of the  
23 district payable from any and all sources of revenue designated  
24 for that purpose by the board of education of the district and  
25 shall be irrevocable notwithstanding the district's withdrawal  
26 from membership in the joint special education program.

1 (g) A member district wishing to withdraw from a joint  
2 agreement may obtain from its school board a written resolution  
3 approving the withdrawal. The withdrawing district must then  
4 present a written petition for withdrawal from the joint  
5 agreement to the other member districts within such timelines  
6 designated by the joint agreement. A member district wishing to  
7 withdraw from a joint agreement under this subsection (g) must  
8 present to its school board and the other member districts  
9 evidence that it has a comprehensive plan for educating a wide  
10 range of students with disabilities, including a full continuum  
11 of support and services, and that it has an appropriate plan  
12 for educating all currently enrolled students with  
13 disabilities upon withdrawal from the joint agreement. Upon  
14 approval by school board written resolution of all of the  
15 remaining member districts, the petitioning member district  
16 shall be withdrawn from the joint agreement effective the  
17 following July 1 and shall notify the State Board of Education  
18 of the approved withdrawal in writing. If the petition for  
19 withdrawal is not approved and the petitioning member district  
20 is a part of a Class II county school unit outside of a city of  
21 500,000 or more inhabitants, the petitioning member district  
22 may appeal the disapproval decision to the trustees of schools  
23 of the township that has jurisdiction and authority over the  
24 withdrawing district. If a withdrawing district is not under  
25 the jurisdiction and authority of the trustees of schools of a  
26 township, a hearing panel shall be established by the chief

1 administrative officer of the intermediate service center  
2 having jurisdiction over the withdrawing district. The hearing  
3 panel shall be made up of 3 persons who have a demonstrated  
4 interest and background in education. Each hearing panel member  
5 must reside within an educational service region of 2,000,000  
6 or more inhabitants but not within the withdrawing district and  
7 may not be a current school board member or employee of the  
8 withdrawing district or hold any county office. None of the  
9 hearing panel members may reside within the same school  
10 district. The hearing panel shall serve without remuneration;  
11 however, the necessary expenses, including travel, attendant  
12 upon any meeting or hearing in relation to these proceedings  
13 must be paid. If the trustees of schools of the township having  
14 jurisdiction and authority over the withdrawing district or the  
15 hearing panel established by the chief administrative officer  
16 of the intermediate service center having jurisdiction over the  
17 withdrawing district approves the petition for withdrawal,  
18 then the petitioning member district shall be withdrawn from  
19 the joint agreement effective the following July 1 and shall  
20 notify the State Board of Education of the approved withdrawal  
21 in writing.

22 (g-5) This subsection (g-5) applies to school districts  
23 located in whole or part in a county with a population  
24 exceeding 5,000,000 inhabitants and joint agreements involved  
25 in a withdrawal under subsection (g) of this Section effective  
26 on July 1, 2018. A student attending a school under a joint

1 agreement program in the school year immediately prior to the  
2 effective date of the school district withdrawing from the  
3 agreement shall be permitted to remain placed in the joint  
4 agreement program if the student is a resident of the  
5 withdrawing school district, the joint agreement maintains the  
6 program, the student's individualized education program team  
7 makes a determination that the program is the most appropriate  
8 program to meet the student's needs, and the student remains  
9 age appropriate for the program. A student shall be permitted  
10 to attend the joint agreement program under this subsection  
11 (g-5) regardless of whether the joint agreement bylaws prohibit  
12 attendance from non-member district students. If a student from  
13 the withdrawing district attends the joint agreement's  
14 program, the withdrawing district shall be responsible for the  
15 per capita cost of the student's attendance as calculated under  
16 Section 14-7.01 of this Code, plus a per student share of fees  
17 that would have been paid to the joint agreement for membership  
18 and administrative costs associated with educating the student  
19 in the joint agreement's program, and transportation of the  
20 student to the joint agreement's program. For purposes of this  
21 subsection (g-5), the per student share of fees that would have  
22 been paid to the joint agreement for membership and  
23 administrative costs associated with educating a student in the  
24 joint agreement's program shall be negotiated between the  
25 withdrawing school district and the joint agreement program no  
26 later than August 1, 2018. If the withdrawing school district

1 and the joint agreement program fail to come to a negotiated  
2 agreement on or before August 1, 2018, the State Board of  
3 Education shall determine the per student share of fees at its  
4 next regularly scheduled meeting. This subsection (g-5) does  
5 not apply to any student who moves outside of the boundaries of  
6 a school district that is or was a member of a special  
7 education joint agreement involved in a withdrawal effective on  
8 July 1, 2018. No interpretations or precedent for future  
9 actions with other joint agreements or school districts may be  
10 taken as a result of this subsection (g-5). This subsection  
11 (g-5) is inoperative on and after July 1, 2026.

12 (h) The changes to this Section made by Public Act 96-783  
13 apply to withdrawals from or dissolutions of special education  
14 joint agreements initiated after August 28, 2009 (the effective  
15 date of Public Act 96-783).

16 (i) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (g), and (h) of this  
17 Section or any other provision of this Code to the contrary, an  
18 elementary school district that maintains grades up to and  
19 including grade 8, that had a 2014-2015 best 3 months' average  
20 daily attendance of 5,209.57, and that had a 2014 equalized  
21 assessed valuation of at least \$451,500,000, but not more than  
22 \$452,000,000, may withdraw from its special education joint  
23 agreement program consisting of 6 school districts upon  
24 submission and approval of the comprehensive plan, in  
25 compliance with the applicable requirements of Section 14-4.01  
26 of this Code, in addition to the approval by the school board

1 of the elementary school district and notification to and the  
2 filing of an intent to withdraw statement with the governing  
3 board of the joint agreement program. Such notification and  
4 statement shall specify the effective date of the withdrawal,  
5 which in no case shall be less than 60 days after the date of  
6 the filing of the notification and statement. Upon receipt of  
7 the notification and statement, the governing board of the  
8 joint agreement program shall distribute a copy to each member  
9 district of the joint agreement and shall initiate any  
10 appropriate allocation of assets and liabilities among the  
11 remaining member districts to take effect upon the date of the  
12 withdrawal. The withdrawal shall take effect upon the date  
13 specified in the notification and statement.

14 (Source: P.A. 99-729, eff. 8-5-16; 100-66, eff. 8-11-17.)

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
16 becoming law.