

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 2-3.173 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.173 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.173. Supporting Future Teachers Program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "English learner" means a child included in the definition  
10 of "English learners" under Section 14C-2 of this Code.

11 "Low-income student" means a student that would be included  
12 in an Organizational Unit's Low-Income Count, as calculated  
13 under Section 18-8.15 of this Code.

14 "Program" means the Supporting Future Teachers Program  
15 established under this Section.

16 "Qualified participant" means a high school graduate who:  
17 (i) can demonstrate proficiency in a language other than  
18 English or is a recipient of a State Seal of Biliteracy or, at  
19 any one time during pre-kindergarten through grade 12, was  
20 identified as a low-income student; and (ii) is a member of the  
21 community in which the participating school district is  
22 located. A "qualified participant" must be enrolled in an  
23 educator preparation program approved by the State Board of

1 Education at a regionally accredited institution of higher  
2 education in this State.

3 "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

4 (b) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the State  
5 Board shall establish and maintain the Supporting Future  
6 Teachers Program to assist qualified participants in acquiring  
7 a Professional Educator License.

8 (c) Each participating school district shall partner with  
9 an educator preparation program approved by the State Board at  
10 a regionally accredited institution of higher education in this  
11 State. Each qualified participant enrolled in the Program  
12 through the school district must be enrolled at least part-time  
13 each semester at that institution of higher education in its  
14 educator preparation program and be working toward a  
15 Professional Educator License.

16 (d) A qualified participant shall no longer qualify for the  
17 Program if at any time the participating school district or the  
18 institution of higher education determines that the qualified  
19 participant is no longer making substantial progress toward a  
20 degree in an approved educator preparation program.

21 (e) Throughout each semester of participation in the  
22 Program, the qualified participant must be employed by the  
23 participating school district and working under the  
24 supervision of a school district employee. Duties of the  
25 qualified participant may include, but are not limited to (i)  
26 working in cooperation with his or her supervisor under this

1 subsection (e) to create classroom curriculum and lesson plans  
2 and (ii) working with and mentoring English learners or  
3 low-income students on a one-on-one basis.

4 Each participating school district may use appropriate  
5 State, federal, or local revenue to employ the qualified  
6 participant.

7 (f) At the end of each school year of the Program, each  
8 participating school district shall submit data to the State  
9 Board detailing all of the following:

10 (1) The number of qualified participants enrolled in  
11 the Program.

12 (2) The costs associated with the Program.

13 (3) The duties assigned to each qualified participant  
14 by his or her supervisor.

15 (4) The current status of each qualified participant in  
16 his or her educator preparation program.

17 (5) The qualified participant's Illinois Educator  
18 Identification Number, if available.

19 (6) Any other information requested by the State Board.

20 (g) Prior to the 2023-2024 school year, the State Board  
21 shall electronically submit a report to the Clerk of the House  
22 of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate detailing  
23 the first 4 years of the program, including, but not limited  
24 to, the following information:

25 (1) The participating school districts in the Program.

26 (2) The number of qualified participants enrolled in

1 the Program.

2 (3) The costs associated with the Program per school  
3 district.

4 (4) A summary of the duties assigned to qualified  
5 participants by school district supervisors.

6 (5) Any other information as determined by the State  
7 Board.

8 (h) The State Board may establish and adopt any rules  
9 necessary to implement this Section.

10 (i) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a  
11 school district to participate in the Program.

12 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.