

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 26-19 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-19 new)

7 Sec. 26-19. Chronic absenteeism in preschool children.

8 (a) In this Section, "Chronic absence" has the meaning  
9 ascribed to that term in Section 26-18 of this Code.

10 (b) The General Assembly makes all of the following  
11 findings:

12 (1) The early years are an extremely important period  
13 in a child's learning and development.

14 (2) Missed learning opportunities in the early years  
15 make it difficult for a child to enter kindergarten ready  
16 for success.

17 (3) Attendance patterns in the early years serve as  
18 predictors of chronic absenteeism and reduced educational  
19 outcomes in later school years. Therefore, it is crucial  
20 that the implications of chronic absence be understood and  
21 reviewed regularly in all publicly funded early childhood  
22 programs receiving State funds under Section 2-3.71 of this  
23 Code.

1       (c) Beginning July 1, 2019, any publicly funded early  
2 childhood program receiving State funds under Section 2-3.71 of  
3 this Code shall collect and review its chronic absence data and  
4 determine what support and resources are needed to positively  
5 engage chronically absent students and their families to  
6 encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success.

7       (d) Publicly funded early childhood programs receiving  
8 State funds under Section 2-3.71 of this Code are encouraged to  
9 do all of the following:

10           (1) Provide support to students who are at risk of  
11 reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels.

12           (2) Make resources available to families, such as those  
13 available through the State Board of Education's Family  
14 Engagement Framework, to support and encourage families to  
15 ensure their children's daily program attendance.

16           (3) Include information about chronic absenteeism as  
17 part of their preschool to kindergarten transition  
18 resources.

19       (e) On or before July 1, 2020, and annually thereafter, an  
20 early childhood program shall report all data collected under  
21 subsection (c) of this Section to the State Board of Education,  
22 which shall make the report publicly available via the Illinois  
23 Early Childhood Asset Map Internet website and the Preschool  
24 for All Program or Preschool for All Expansion Program  
25 triennial report.

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

1 2019.