

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 2-3.176 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.176 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.176. Safe Schools and Healthy Learning
8 Environments Grant Program.

9 (a) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation,
10 is authorized to award competitive grants on an annual basis
11 under a Safe Schools and Healthy Learning Environments Grant
12 Program. The goal of this grant program is to promote school
13 safety and healthy learning environments by providing schools
14 with additional resources to implement restorative
15 interventions and resolution strategies as alternatives to
16 exclusionary discipline, and to address the full range of
17 students' intellectual, social, emotional, physical,
18 psychological, and moral developmental needs.

19 (b) To receive a grant under this program, a school
20 district must submit with its grant application a plan for
21 implementing evidence-based and promising practices that are
22 aligned with the goal of this program. The application may
23 include proposals to (i) hire additional school support

1 personnel, including, but not limited to, restorative justice
2 practitioners, school psychologists, school social workers,
3 and other mental and behavioral health specialists; (ii) use
4 existing school-based resources, community-based resources, or
5 other experts and practitioners to expand alternatives to
6 exclusionary discipline, mental and behavioral health
7 supports, wraparound services, or drug and alcohol treatment;
8 and (iii) provide training for school staff on trauma-informed
9 approaches to meeting students' developmental needs,
10 addressing the effects of toxic stress, restorative justice
11 approaches, conflict resolution techniques, and the effective
12 utilization of school support personnel and community-based
13 services. For purposes of this subsection, "promising
14 practices" means practices that present, based on preliminary
15 information, potential for becoming evidence-based practices.

16 Grant funds may not be used to increase the use of
17 school-based law enforcement or security personnel. Nothing in
18 this Section shall prohibit school districts from involving law
19 enforcement personnel when necessary and allowed by law.

20 (c) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation
21 for the grant program, shall annually disseminate a request for
22 applications to this program, and funds shall be distributed
23 annually. The criteria to be considered by the State Board of
24 Education in awarding the funds shall be (i) the average ratio
25 of school support personnel to students in the target schools
26 over the preceding 3 school years, with priority given to

1 applications with a demonstrated shortage of school support
2 personnel to meet student needs; and (ii) the degree to which
3 the proposal articulates a comprehensive approach for reducing
4 exclusionary discipline while building safe and healthy
5 learning environments. Priority shall be given to school
6 districts that meet the metrics under subsection (b) of Section
7 2-3.162.

8 (d) The State Board of Education, subject to appropriation
9 for the grant program, shall produce an annual report on the
10 program in cooperation with the school districts participating
11 in the program. The report shall include available quantitative
12 information on the progress being made in reducing exclusionary
13 discipline and the effects of the program on school safety and
14 school climate. This report shall be posted on the State Board
15 of Education's website by October 31 of each year, beginning in
16 2020.

17 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
18 necessary for the implementation of this program.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.