

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 Sections  
5 10-20.83 and 34-18.78 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.83. College and career readiness systems.

8 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this Section, by July 1,  
9 2025, a school district that enrolls students in any of grades  
10 6 through 12 shall adopt and commence implementation of career  
11 exploration and career development activities in accordance  
12 with a postsecondary and career expectations framework for  
13 each of grades 6 through 12 served by the district that  
14 substantially aligns to the model framework adopted by State  
15 agencies pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and  
16 Workforce Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career  
17 expectations framework shall be available on a prominent  
18 location on the school district's website.

19 The career exploration and career development activities  
20 offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career  
21 expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in  
22 grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about  
23 their future education and career goals, including possible

1 participation in a career and technical education pathway, by  
2 providing students with opportunities to explore a wide  
3 variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

4 (b) By no later than July 1, 2025, a school district that  
5 enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12 shall either  
6 elect to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements in  
7 accordance with subsection (c) of this Section or opt out of  
8 implementation in accordance with subsection (d) of this  
9 Section.

10 (c) A school district that enrolls students in any of  
11 grades 9 through 12 electing to implement College and Career  
12 Pathway Endorsements shall become an eligible school district  
13 and either (i) independently, (ii) through an area career  
14 center, or (iii) through an inter-district cooperative, award  
15 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the  
16 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the  
17 following schedule:

18 (1) for the high school graduating class of 2027, a  
19 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
20 Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

21 (2) for the high school graduating class of 2029, a  
22 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
23 Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

24 (3) for the high school graduating class of 2031, a  
25 school district with a grade 9 through 12 enrollment of  
26 more than 350 students, as calculated by the State Board

1 of Education for the 2022-2023 school year, shall offer  
2 College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 3  
3 endorsement areas.

4 A school district may elect to implement College and  
5 Career Pathway Endorsements by July 1, 2025, either by  
6 submitting the necessary application materials to the State  
7 Board of Education to award the number of endorsements  
8 required by this subsection or by the school board of the  
9 district adopting a timeline for implementation consistent  
10 with the requirements of this subsection.

11 (d) The school board of any school district may, by action  
12 of the board, opt out of implementation of all or any part of  
13 this Section through adoption of a set of findings that  
14 considers the following:

15 (1) the school district's current systems for college  
16 and career readiness;

17 (2) the school district's cost of implementation  
18 balanced against the potential benefits to students and  
19 families through improved postsecondary education and  
20 career outcomes;

21 (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses  
22 to partner with the school district for successful  
23 implementation of pathways other than education;

24 (4) the willingness of institutions of higher  
25 education to partner with the school district for  
26 successful implementation of the pathway and whether the

1 district has sought and established a partnership  
2 agreement with a community college district incorporating  
3 the provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under  
4 the Dual Credit Quality Act;

5 (5) the availability of a statewide database of  
6 participating local business partners, as provided under  
7 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the  
8 purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those  
9 work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the  
10 database to the students of the school district; and

11 (6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or  
12 teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual  
13 credit courses to instruct in the program required for the  
14 endorsement areas.

15 A school district must report its board findings and  
16 decision on implementation to the State Board of Education. A  
17 school district electing to opt out of implementation may  
18 reverse its decision in whole or in part at any time.

19 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
20 necessary to implement this Section.

21 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.78 new)

22 Sec. 34-18.78. College and career readiness systems.

23 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, by July 1,  
24 2024, the school district shall adopt and commence  
25 implementation of a postsecondary and career expectations

1 framework for each of grades 6 through 12 that substantially  
2 aligns to the model framework adopted by State agencies  
3 pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and Workforce  
4 Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career expectations  
5 framework shall be available on a prominent location on the  
6 school district's website.

7 The career exploration and career development activities  
8 offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career  
9 expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in  
10 grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about  
11 their future education and career goals, including possible  
12 participation in a career and technical education pathway, by  
13 providing students with opportunities to explore a wide  
14 variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

15 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, the school  
16 district shall become an eligible school district and award  
17 College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the  
18 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the  
19 following schedule:

20 (1) for the high school graduating class of 2026, the  
21 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
22 Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

23 (2) for the high school graduating class of 2028, the  
24 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
25 Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

26 (3) for the high school graduating class of 2030, the

1 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
2 Endorsements in at least 3 endorsement areas.

3 (c) The board may, by action of the board, opt out of  
4 implementation of all or any part of this Section through  
5 adoption of a set of findings that considers the following:

6 (1) the school district's current systems for college  
7 and career readiness;

8 (2) the school district's cost of implementation  
9 balanced against the potential benefits to students and  
10 families through improved postsecondary education and  
11 career outcomes;

12 (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses  
13 to partner with the school district for successful  
14 implementation of pathways other than education;

15 (4) the availability of a statewide database of  
16 participating local business partners, as provided under  
17 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the  
18 purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those  
19 work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the  
20 database to the students of the school district; and

21 (5) the availability of properly licensed teachers or  
22 teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual  
23 credit courses to instruct in the program required for the  
24 endorsement areas.

25 The school district must report its board findings and  
26 decision on implementation to the State Board of Education. If

1 the school district elects to opt out of implementation, the  
2 district may reverse its decision in whole or in part at any  
3 time.

4 (d) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
5 necessary to implement this Section.

6 Section 10. The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act  
7 is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

8 (110 ILCS 148/15)

9 Sec. 15. Postsecondary and career expectations.

10 (a) By no later than July 1, 2017, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and  
11 ISAC, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall  
12 jointly adopt and publicize model postsecondary and career  
13 expectations for public school students in grades 8 through  
14 12. The model postsecondary and career expectations shall  
15 define activities that school districts, parents, and  
16 community-based organizations should support students in  
17 completing and related knowledge students should possess by no  
18 later than the end of each grade level. The model  
19 postsecondary and career expectations must address the  
20 following categories:

21 (1) career exploration and development;

22 (2) postsecondary institution exploration,  
23 preparation, and selection; and

24 (3) financial aid and financial literacy.

1       (b) By July 1, 2023, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and ISAC, in  
2       consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall jointly  
3       adopt and publicize an update to the model postsecondary and  
4       career expectations that extends the expectations to grade 6  
5       and includes such other revisions and updates as the agencies  
6       deem appropriate.

7       (c) By July 1, 2024, ISBE shall consult with a statewide  
8       organization representing businesses and manufacturing. After  
9       consultation, ISBE shall publish and maintain on its website a  
10      current database, organized by region, of employer champions  
11      for work-based learning and career readiness systems and  
12      programs. Each employer must consent to its designation as a  
13      champion and its information being published in the database.  
14      In addition, ISBE shall publish and maintain on its website an  
15      inventory of resources available to support school districts  
16      in implementing College and Career Pathway Endorsements,  
17      including sector-specific resources.

18      (Source: P.A. 99-674, eff. 7-29-16.)