

SB3997



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB3997

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Sen. Cristina H. Pacione-Zayas

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.152

Amends the School Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning community schools.

LRB102 24612 CMG 33848 b

A BILL FOR

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 2-3.152 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.152)

7 Sec. 2-3.152. Community schools.

8 (a) This Section applies beginning with the ~~the~~ 2009-2010
9 school year.

10 (b) The General Assembly finds all of the following:

11 (1) All children are capable of success.

12 (2) Schools are the centers of vibrant communities.

13 (3) Strong families build strong educational
14 communities.

15 (4) Children succeed when adults work together to
16 foster positive educational outcomes.

17 (5) Schools work best when families take active roles
18 in the education of children.

19 (6) Schools today are limited in their ability to
20 dedicate time and resources to provide a wide range of
21 educational opportunities to students because of the focus
22 on standardized test outcomes.

23 (7) By providing learning opportunities outside of

1 normal school hours, including programs on life skills and
2 health, students are more successful academically, more
3 engaged in their communities, safer, and better prepared
4 to make a successful transition from school to adulthood.

5 (8) A community school is a traditional school that
6 actively partners with its community to leverage existing
7 resources and identify new resources to support the
8 transformation of the school to provide enrichment and
9 additional life skill opportunities for students, parents,
10 and community members at-large. Each community school is
11 unique because its programming is designed by and for the
12 school staff, in partnership with parents, community
13 stakeholders, and students.

14 (9) Community schools currently exist in this State in
15 urban, rural, and suburban communities.

16 (10) Research shows that community schools have a
17 powerful positive impact on students, as demonstrated by
18 increased academic success, a positive change in attitudes
19 toward school and learning, and decreased behavioral
20 problems.

21 (11) After-school and evening programs offered by
22 community schools provide academic enrichment consistent
23 with the Illinois Learning Standards and general school
24 curriculum; an opportunity for physical fitness activities
25 for students, fine arts programs, structured learning
26 "play" time, and other recreational opportunities; a safe

1 haven for students; and work supports for working
2 families.

3 (12) Community schools are cost-effective because they
4 leverage existing resources provided by local, State,
5 federal, and private sources and bring programs to the
6 schools, where the students are already congregated.
7 Community schools have been shown to leverage between \$5
8 to \$8 in existing programming for every \$1 spent on a
9 community school.

10 (c) Subject to an appropriation or the availability of
11 funding for such purposes, the State Board of Education shall
12 make grants available to fund community schools and to enhance
13 programs at community schools. A request-for-proposal process
14 must be used in awarding grants under this subsection (c).
15 Proposals may be submitted on behalf of a school, a school
16 district, or a consortium of 2 or more schools or school
17 districts. Proposals must be evaluated and scored on the basis
18 of criteria consistent with this Section and other factors
19 developed and adopted by the State Board of Education.
20 Technical assistance in grant writing must be made available
21 to schools, school districts, or consortia of school districts
22 through the State Board of Education directly or through a
23 resource and referral directory established and maintained by
24 the State Board of Education.

25 (d) In order to qualify for a community school grant under
26 this Section, a school must, at a minimum, have the following

1 components:

2 (1) Before and after-school programming each school
3 day to meet the identified needs of students.

4 (2) Weekend programming.

5 (3) At least 4 weeks of summer programming.

6 (4) A local advisory group comprised of school
7 leadership, parents, and community stakeholders that
8 establishes school-specific programming goals, assesses
9 program needs, and oversees the process of implementing
10 expanded programming.

11 (5) A program director or resource coordinator who is
12 responsible for establishing a local advisory group,
13 assessing the needs of students and community members,
14 identifying programs to meet those needs, developing the
15 before and after-school, weekend, and summer programming
16 and overseeing the implementation of programming to ensure
17 high quality, efficiency, and robust participation.

18 (6) Programming that includes academic excellence
19 aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, life skills,
20 healthy minds and bodies, parental support, and community
21 engagement and that promotes staying in school and
22 non-violent behavior and non-violent conflict resolution.

23 (7) Maintenance of attendance records in all
24 programming components.

25 (8) Maintenance of measurable data showing annual
26 participation and the impact of programming on the

1 participating children and adults.

2 (9) Documentation of true collaboration between the
3 school and community stakeholders, including local
4 governmental units, civic organizations, families,
5 businesses, and social service providers.

6 (10) A non-discrimination policy ensuring that the
7 community school does not condition participation upon
8 race, ethnic origin, religion, sex, or disability.

9 (Source: P.A. 96-746, eff. 8-25-09; 96-1000, eff. 7-2-10.)