

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 27-23.17 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/27-23.17 new)

7 Sec. 27-23.17. Workplace Readiness Week.

8 (a) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all public
9 high schools, including charter schools, may designate and
10 annually observe a week known as "Workplace Readiness Week".
11 During that week, students shall be provided information on
12 their rights as workers. The topics covered shall include, but
13 are not limited to, local, State, and federal laws regarding
14 each of the following areas and shall include the labor
15 movement's role in winning the protections and benefits
16 described in those areas:

17 (1) Prohibitions against misclassification of
18 employees as independent contractors.

19 (2) Child labor.

20 (3) Wage and hour protections.

21 (4) Worker safety.

22 (5) Workers' compensation.

23 (6) Unemployment insurance.

1 (7) Paid sick leave and paid family leave.

2 (8) The right to organize a union in the workplace.

3 (9) Prohibitions against retaliation by employers when
4 workers exercise their rights as workers or any other
5 rights guaranteed by law.

6 During Workplace Readiness Week, students shall also be
7 provided information introducing them to State-approved
8 apprenticeship programs, how to access them, the variety of
9 programs available, and how they can provide an alternative
10 career path for those students who choose not to attend a
11 traditional higher education program.

12 (b) If a school observes Workplace Readiness Week under
13 this Section, then, for students in grades 11 and 12, the
14 information required to be provided in subsection (a) shall be
15 integrated into the regular school program but may also be
16 provided during special events after regular school hours.
17 Integration into the regular school program is encouraged, but
18 not required, to occur during Workplace Readiness Week.

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