

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 2-3.169 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.169)

7 Sec. 2-3.169. State Global Scholar Certification.

8 (a) The State Global Scholar Certification Program is  
9 established to recognized public and nonpublic high school  
10 graduates who have attained global competence. State Global  
11 Scholar Certification shall be awarded beginning with the  
12 2017-2018 school year. School district or nonpublic school  
13 participation in this certification is voluntary.

14 (b) The purposes of State Global Scholar Certification are  
15 as follows:

16 (1) To recognize the value of a global education.

17 (2) To certify attainment of global competence.

18 (3) To provide employers with a method of identifying  
19 globally competent employees.

20 (4) To provide colleges and universities with an  
21 additional method to recognize applicants seeking  
22 admission.

23 (5) To prepare students with 21st century skills.

1           (6) To encourage the development of a globally ready  
2           workforce in the STEM (science, technology, engineering,  
3           and mathematics), manufacturing, agriculture, and service  
4           sectors.

5           (c) State Global Scholar Certification confirms attainment  
6           of global competence, sufficient for meaningful use in college  
7           and a career, by a graduating public or nonpublic high school  
8           student.

9           (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as  
10          may be necessary to establish the criteria that students must  
11          achieve to earn State Global Scholar Certification, which  
12          shall minimally include attainment of 6 units of credit in  
13          globally focused courses, service learning experiences, global  
14          collaboration or ~~and~~ dialogue, and passage of a capstone  
15          project demonstrating global competency, as approved by the  
16          participating school district or nonpublic school for this  
17          purpose.

18          (e) The State Board of Education shall do both of the  
19          following:

20               (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school  
21               districts or nonpublic schools an appropriate mechanism  
22               for designating State Global Scholar Certification on the  
23               diploma and transcript of a student indicating that the  
24               student has been awarded State Global Scholar  
25               Certification by the State Board of Education.

26               (2) Provide other information the State Board of

1 Education deems necessary for school districts or  
2 nonpublic schools to successfully participate in the  
3 certification.

4 (f) A school district or nonpublic school that  
5 participates in certification under this Section shall do both  
6 of the following:

7 (1) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify  
8 students who have earned State Global Scholar  
9 Certification.

10 (2) Make the appropriate designation on the diploma  
11 and transcript of each student who earns State Global  
12 Scholar Certification.

13 (g) No fee may be charged to a student to receive the  
14 designation pursuant to the Section. Notwithstanding this  
15 prohibition, costs may be incurred by the student in  
16 demonstrating proficiency.

17 (h) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as  
18 may be necessary to provide students attending schools that do  
19 not offer State Global Scholar Certification the opportunity  
20 to earn State Global Scholar Certification remotely beginning  
21 with the 2026-2027 school year. These rules shall include, but  
22 are not be limited to, the following:

23 (1) A list of all school courses and course codes  
24 derived from the State Board of Education's Illinois State  
25 Course Catalog that are designated as and qualify as  
26 globally focused coursework.

1           (2) A mechanism to provide students the opportunity to  
2           complete the capstone project requirement as part of a  
3           semester or year-long online course taught by a teacher  
4           licensed to teach grades 9 through 12 under Article 21B.  
5           The online course shall meet all of the criteria for the  
6           capstone project as provided by rule and shall provide  
7           students with opportunities to engage in service learning  
8           and participate in global collaboration or dialogue as  
9           provided in subsection (d). The online course shall be  
10           made available to students beginning with the 2026-2027  
11           school year.

12           If a provider of the online course determines and can  
13           demonstrate that a student meets all of the criteria required  
14           to earn State Global Scholar Certification, then the school  
15           district or nonpublic school shall designate that the student  
16           has earned State Global Scholar Certification on the student's  
17           diploma and transcript.

18           A school district or nonpublic school shall provide, upon  
19           the request of a student, evidence to the student that the  
20           student has completed at least 6 units of credit in globally  
21           focused courses required to earn State Global Scholar  
22           Certification for the student to submit to the provider of the  
23           online course.

24           A student enrolled in a school district or nonpublic  
25           school that awarded State Global Scholar Certification prior  
26           to the 2026-2027 school year and offered a course to complete

1 the capstone project requirement prior to the 2026-2027 school  
2 year may not earn State Global Scholar Certification remotely  
3 under this subsection (h).

4 (Source: P.A. 103-352, eff. 7-28-23.)