

1 AN ACT concerning schools.

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  
5 Sections 10-20.9a and 34-18.18 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.9a) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.9a)

7 Sec. 10-20.9a. Final Grade; Promotion.

8 (a) Teachers shall administer the approved marking  
9 system or other approved means of evaluating pupil progress.  
10 The teacher shall maintain the responsibility and right to  
11 determine grades and other evaluations of students within the  
12 grading policies of the district based upon his or her  
13 professional judgment of available criteria pertinent to any  
14 given subject area or activity for which he or she is  
15 responsible. District policy shall provide the procedure and  
16 reasons by and for which a grade may be changed; provided  
17 that no grade or evaluation shall be changed without  
18 notification to the teacher concerning the nature and reasons  
19 for such change. If such a change is made, the person making  
20 the change shall assume such responsibility for determining  
21 the grade or evaluation, and shall initial such change.

22 (b) School districts shall not promote students to the  
23 next higher grade level based upon age or any other social  
24 reasons not related to the academic performance of the  
25 students. On or before September 1, 1998, school boards  
26 shall adopt and enforce a policy on promotion as they deem  
27 necessary to ensure that students meet local goals and  
28 objectives and can perform at the expected grade level prior  
29 to promotion. Decisions to promote or retain students in any  
30 classes shall be based on successful completion of the  
31 curriculum, attendance, performance based on Illinois Goals

1 and Assessment Program tests, the Iowa Test of Basic Skills,  
 2 or other testing or any other criteria established by the  
 3 school board. Students determined by the local district to  
 4 not qualify for promotion to the next higher grade shall be  
 5 provided remedial assistance, which may include, but shall  
 6 not be limited to, a summer bridge program of no less than 90  
 7 hours, tutorial sessions, increased or concentrated  
 8 instructional time, modifications to instructional materials,  
 9 and retention in grade.

10 A school district may not promote a student to the next  
 11 higher grade level if the student has more than 10 days of  
 12 unexcused absences, unless the student makes up those  
 13 absences by attending a remedial or summer school class.

14 (Source: P.A. 89-610, eff. 8-6-96; 90-548, eff. 1-1-98.)

15 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.18)

16 Sec. 34-18.18. Student promotion and graduation  
 17 Occupational-standards.

18 (a) The Board shall not require a student to meet  
 19 occupational standards for grade level promotion or  
 20 graduation unless that student is voluntarily enrolled in a  
 21 job training program.

22 (b) The school district may not promote a student to the  
 23 next higher grade level if the student has more than 10 days  
 24 of unexcused absences, unless the student makes up those  
 25 absences by attending a remedial or summer school class.

26 (Source: P.A. 91-175, eff. 1-1-00; 92-16, eff. 6-28-01.)

27 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
 28 Section 8.27 as follows:

29 (30 ILCS 805/8.27 new)

30 Sec. 8.27. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6  
 31 and 8 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required

1 for the implementation of any mandate created by this  
2 amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
4 becoming law.