

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  
5 Section 1D-1 and adding Section 2-3.51a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/1D-1)

7 Sec. 1D-1. Block grant funding.

8 (a) For fiscal year 1996 and each fiscal year  
9 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award to a  
10 school district having a population exceeding 500,000  
11 inhabitants a general education block grant and an  
12 educational services block grant, determined as provided in  
13 this Section, in lieu of distributing to the district  
14 separate State funding for the programs described in  
15 subsections (b) and (c). The provisions of this Section,  
16 however, do not apply to any federal funds that the district  
17 is entitled to receive. In accordance with Section 2-3.32,  
18 all block grants are subject to an audit. Therefore, block  
19 grant receipts and block grant expenditures shall be recorded  
20 to the appropriate fund code for the designated block grant.

21 (b) The general education block grant shall include the  
22 following programs: REI Initiative, Summer Bridges, Preschool  
23 At Risk, K-6 Comprehensive Arts, School Improvement Support,  
24 Urban Education, Scientific Literacy, Substance Abuse  
25 Prevention, Second Language Planning, Staff Development,  
26 Outcomes and Assessment, K-6 Reading Improvement, 7-12  
27 Continued Reading Improvement, Truants' Optional Education,  
28 Hispanic Programs, Agriculture Education, Gifted Education,  
29 Parental Education, Prevention Initiative, Report Cards, and  
30 Criminal Background Investigations. Notwithstanding any  
31 other provision of law, all amounts paid under the general

1 education block grant from State appropriations to a school  
2 district in a city having a population exceeding 500,000  
3 inhabitants shall be appropriated and expended by the board  
4 of that district for any of the programs included in the  
5 block grant or any of the board's lawful purposes.

6 (c) The educational services block grant shall include  
7 the following programs: Bilingual, Regular and Vocational  
8 Transportation, State Lunch and Free Breakfast Program,  
9 Special Education (Personnel, Extraordinary, Transportation,  
10 Orphanage, Private Tuition), Summer School, Educational  
11 Service Centers, and Administrator's Academy. This  
12 subsection (c) does not relieve the district of its  
13 obligation to provide the services required under a program  
14 that is included within the educational services block grant.  
15 It is the intention of the General Assembly in enacting the  
16 provisions of this subsection (c) to relieve the district of  
17 the administrative burdens that impede efficiency and  
18 accompany single-program funding. The General Assembly  
19 encourages the board to pursue mandate waivers pursuant to  
20 Section 2-3.25g.

21 (d) For fiscal year 1996 and each fiscal year  
22 thereafter, the amount of the district's block grants shall  
23 be determined as follows: (i) with respect to each program  
24 that is included within each block grant, the district shall  
25 receive an amount equal to the same percentage of the current  
26 fiscal year appropriation made for that program as the  
27 percentage of the appropriation received by the district from  
28 the 1995 fiscal year appropriation made for that program, and  
29 (ii) the total amount that is due the district under the  
30 block grant shall be the aggregate of the amounts that the  
31 district is entitled to receive for the fiscal year with  
32 respect to each program that is included within the block  
33 grant that the State Board of Education shall award the  
34 district under this Section for that fiscal year. In the

1 case of the Summer Bridges program, the amount of the  
2 district's block grant shall be equal to 44% of the amount of  
3 the current fiscal year appropriation made for that program.

4 (e) The district is not required to file any application  
5 or other claim in order to receive the block grants to which  
6 it is entitled under this Section. The State Board of  
7 Education shall make payments to the district of amounts due  
8 under the district's block grants on a schedule determined by  
9 the State Board of Education.

10 (f) A school district to which this Section applies  
11 shall report to the State Board of Education on its use of  
12 the block grants in such form and detail as the State Board  
13 of Education may specify.

14 (g) This paragraph provides for the treatment of block  
15 grants under Article 1C for purposes of calculating the  
16 amount of block grants for a district under this Section.  
17 Those block grants under Article 1C are, for this purpose,  
18 treated as included in the amount of appropriation for the  
19 various programs set forth in paragraph (b) above. The  
20 appropriation in each current fiscal year for each block  
21 grant under Article 1C shall be treated for these purposes as  
22 appropriations for the individual program included in that  
23 block grant. The proportion of each block grant so allocated  
24 to each such program included in it shall be the proportion  
25 which the appropriation for that program was of all  
26 appropriations for such purposes now in that block grant, in  
27 fiscal 1995.

28 Payments to the school district under this Section with  
29 respect to each program for which payments to school  
30 districts generally, as of the date of this amendatory Act of  
31 the 92nd General Assembly, are on a reimbursement basis shall  
32 continue to be made to the district on a reimbursement basis,  
33 pursuant to the provisions of this Code governing those  
34 programs.

1           (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any  
2 school district receiving a block grant under this Section  
3 may classify all or a portion of the funds that it receives  
4 in a particular fiscal year from any block grant authorized  
5 under this Code or from general State aid pursuant to Section  
6 18-8.05 of this Code (other than supplemental general State  
7 aid) as funds received in connection with any funding program  
8 for which it is entitled to receive funds from the State in  
9 that fiscal year (including, without limitation, any funding  
10 program referred to in subsection (c) of this Section),  
11 regardless of the source or timing of the receipt. The  
12 district may not classify more funds as funds received in  
13 connection with the funding program than the district is  
14 entitled to receive in that fiscal year for that program.  
15 Any classification by a district must be made by a resolution  
16 of its board of education. The resolution must identify the  
17 amount of any block grant or general State aid to be  
18 classified under this subsection (h) and must specify the  
19 funding program to which the funds are to be treated as  
20 received in connection therewith. This resolution is  
21 controlling as to the classification of funds referenced  
22 therein. A certified copy of the resolution must be sent to  
23 the State Superintendent of Education. The resolution shall  
24 still take effect even though a copy of the resolution has  
25 not been sent to the State Superintendent of Education in a  
26 timely manner. No classification under this subsection (h)  
27 by a district shall affect the total amount or timing of  
28 money the district is entitled to receive under this Code.  
29 No classification under this subsection (h) by a district  
30 shall in any way relieve the district from or affect any  
31 requirements that otherwise would apply with respect to the  
32 block grant as provided in this Section, including any  
33 accounting of funds by source, reporting expenditures by  
34 original source and purpose, reporting requirements, or

1 requirements of provision of services.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-711, eff. 7-1-00; 92-568, eff. 6-26-02;  
3 92-651, eff. 7-11-02.)

4 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.51a new)

5 Sec. 2-3.51a. Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant  
6 Program. To improve the reading and study skills of children  
7 from seventh through twelfth grade in school districts. The  
8 State Board of Education is authorized to administer a  
9 Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant Program. As used  
10 in this Section, "school district" includes those schools  
11 designated as laboratory schools.

12 (a) Funds for the Continued Reading Improvement Block  
13 Grant Program shall be distributed to school districts on the  
14 following basis: 70% of moneys shall be awarded on the prior  
15 year's best 3 months average daily attendance and 30% shall  
16 be distributed on the number of economically disadvantaged  
17 (E.C.I.A. Chapter I) pupils in the district, provided that  
18 the State Board may distribute an amount not to exceed 2% of  
19 the moneys appropriated for the Continued Reading Improvement  
20 Block Grant Program for the purpose of providing teacher  
21 training and re-training in the teaching of reading. Program  
22 funds shall be distributed to school districts in 2  
23 semi-annual installments, one payment on or before October 30  
24 and one payment prior to April 30 of each year. The State  
25 Board shall adopt any rules necessary for the implementation  
26 of this program.

27 (b) Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant Program  
28 funds shall be used by school districts in the following  
29 manner to support students in grades 7 through 12 who are  
30 reading significantly below grade level:

31 (1) to continue direct reading instruction for  
32 grades 7 through 12, focusing on the application of  
33 reading skills for understanding informational text;

1           (2) to focus on and to commit time and resources to  
2           the reading of rich literature;

3           (3) to conduct intense vocabulary, spelling, and  
4           related writing programs that promote better  
5           understanding of language and words;

6           (4) to provide professional development based on  
7           scientifically based research and best practices and  
8           delivered by providers approved by the State Board of  
9           Education; and

10          (5) to increase the availability of reading  
11          specialists and teacher aides trained in research-based  
12          reading intervention or improvement practices or both.

13          (c) Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant Program  
14          funds shall be made available to each eligible school  
15          district submitting an approved application developed by the  
16          State Board, beginning with the 2003-2004 school year.  
17          Applications shall include a proposed assessment method or  
18          methods for measuring student reading skills. Such methods  
19          may include the reading portion of State tests. At the end  
20          of each school year the district shall report assessment  
21          results to the State Board. Districts not demonstrating  
22          performance progress using an approved assessment method  
23          shall not be eligible for funding in the third or subsequent  
24          years until such progress is established.

25          (d) The State Superintendent of Education, in  
26          cooperation with the school districts participating in the  
27          program, shall annually report to the leadership of the  
28          General Assembly on the results of the Continued Reading  
29          Improvement Block Grant Program and the progress being made  
30          on improving the reading skills of students in grades 7  
31          through 12.

32          (e) Grants under the Continued Reading Improvement Block  
33          Grant Program shall be awarded provided there is an  
34          appropriation for the program, and funding levels for each

1 district shall be prorated according to the amount of the  
2 appropriation. Funding for the program established under  
3 Section 2-3.51 of this Code shall not be reduced in order to  
4 fund the Continued Reading Improvement Block Grant Program.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect on  
6 July 1, 2003.