



**93RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**  
**State of Illinois**  
**2003 and 2004**  
**SB2360**

Introduced 1/28/2004, by Kimberly A. Lightford

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d

from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25d

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to implement and administer a student achievement improvement grant program to provide 2-year grants to school districts on the academic watch list and other school districts that have the lowest achieving students. Requires a school district to establish an accountability program in order to receive a grant. Requires a grant to be automatically renewed when achievement goals are met. Effective immediately.

LRB093 20520 NHT 46321 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Section  
5 2-3.25d as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25d)

7 Sec. 2-3.25d. Academic early warning and watch status.

8 (a) Those schools that do not meet adequate yearly progress  
9 criteria, as specified by the State Board of Education, for 2  
10 consecutive annual calculations, shall be placed on academic  
11 early warning status for the next school year. Schools on  
12 academic early warning status that do not meet adequate yearly  
13 progress criteria for a third annual calculation shall remain  
14 on academic early warning status. Schools on academic early  
15 warning status that do not meet adequate yearly progress  
16 criteria for a fourth annual calculation shall be placed on  
17 initial academic watch status. Schools on academic watch status  
18 that do not meet adequate yearly progress criteria for a fifth  
19 or subsequent annual calculation shall remain on academic watch  
20 status. Schools on academic early warning or academic watch  
21 status that meet adequate yearly progress criteria for one  
22 annual calculation shall be acknowledged for making  
23 improvement and shall maintain their current statuses for the  
24 next school year. Schools on academic early warning or academic  
25 watch status that meet adequate yearly progress criteria for 2  
26 consecutive annual calculations shall be considered as having  
27 met expectations and shall be removed from any status  
28 designation.

29 The school district of a school placed on either academic  
30 early warning status or academic watch status may appeal the  
31 status to the State Board of Education in accordance with  
32 Section 2-3.25m of this Code.

1 A school district that has one or more schools on academic  
2 early warning or academic watch status shall prepare a revised  
3 School Improvement Plan or amendments thereto setting forth the  
4 district's expectations for removing each school from academic  
5 early warning or academic watch status and for improving  
6 student performance in the affected school or schools.  
7 Districts operating under Article 34 of this Code may prepare  
8 the School Improvement Plan required under Section 34-2.4 of  
9 this Code.

10 The revised School Improvement Plan for a school that is  
11 initially placed on academic early warning status or that  
12 remains on academic early warning status after a third annual  
13 calculation must be approved by the school board (and by the  
14 school's local school council in a district operating under  
15 Article 34 of this Code, unless the school is on probation  
16 pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 34-8.3 of this Code).

17 The revised School Improvement Plan for a school placed on  
18 initial academic watch status after a fourth annual calculation  
19 must be approved by the school board (and by the school's local  
20 school council in a district operating under Article 34 of this  
21 Code, unless the school is on probation pursuant to subsection  
22 (c) of Section 34-8.3 of this Code) and the State  
23 Superintendent of Education.

24 The revised School Improvement Plan for a school that  
25 remains on academic watch status after a fifth annual  
26 calculation must be approved by the school board (and by the  
27 school's local school council in a district operating under  
28 Article 34 of this Code, unless the school is on probation  
29 pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 34-8.3 of this Code) and  
30 the State Superintendent of Education. In addition, the  
31 district must develop a school restructuring plan for the  
32 school that must be approved by the school board (and by the  
33 school's local school council in a district operating under  
34 Article 34 of this Code) and subsequently approved by the State  
35 Superintendent of Education.

36 A school on academic watch status that does not meet

1 adequate yearly progress criteria for a sixth annual  
2 calculation shall implement its approved school restructuring  
3 plan beginning with the next school year, subject to the State  
4 interventions specified in Section 2-3.25f of this Code.

5 (b) Those school districts that do not meet adequate yearly  
6 progress criteria, as specified by the State Board of  
7 Education, for 2 consecutive annual calculations, shall be  
8 placed on academic early warning status for the next school  
9 year. Districts on academic early warning status that do not  
10 meet adequate yearly progress criteria for a third annual  
11 calculation shall remain on academic early warning status.  
12 Districts on academic early warning status that do not meet  
13 adequate yearly progress criteria for a fourth annual  
14 calculation shall be placed on initial academic watch status.  
15 Districts on academic watch status that do not meet adequate  
16 yearly progress criteria for a fifth or subsequent annual  
17 calculation shall remain on academic watch status. Districts on  
18 academic early warning or academic watch status that meet  
19 adequate yearly progress criteria for one annual calculation  
20 shall be acknowledged for making improvement and shall maintain  
21 their current statuses for the next school year. Districts on  
22 academic early warning or academic watch status that meet  
23 adequate yearly progress criteria for 2 consecutive annual  
24 calculations shall be considered as having met expectations and  
25 shall be removed from any status designation.

26 A district placed on either academic early warning status  
27 or academic watch status may appeal the status to the State  
28 Board of Education in accordance with Section 2-3.25m of this  
29 Code.

30 Districts on academic early warning or academic watch  
31 status shall prepare a District Improvement Plan or amendments  
32 thereto setting forth the district's expectations for removing  
33 the district from academic early warning or academic watch  
34 status and for improving student performance in the district.

35 The District Improvement Plan for a district that is  
36 initially placed on academic early warning status must be

1 approved by the school board.

2 The revised District Improvement Plan for a district that  
3 remains on academic early warning status after a third annual  
4 calculation must be approved by the school board.

5 The revised District Improvement Plan for a district on  
6 initial academic watch status after a fourth annual calculation  
7 must be approved by the school board and the State  
8 Superintendent of Education.

9 The revised District Improvement Plan for a district that  
10 remains on academic watch status after a fifth annual  
11 calculation must be approved by the school board and the State  
12 Superintendent of Education. In addition, the district must  
13 develop a district restructuring plan that must be approved by  
14 the school board and the State Superintendent of Education.

15 A district on academic watch status that does not meet  
16 adequate yearly progress criteria for a sixth annual  
17 calculation shall implement its approved district  
18 restructuring plan beginning with the next school year, subject  
19 to the State interventions specified in Section 2-3.25f of this  
20 Code.

21 (c) All revised School and District Improvement Plans shall  
22 be developed in collaboration with staff in the affected school  
23 or school district. All revised School and District Improvement  
24 Plans shall be developed, submitted, and approved pursuant to  
25 rules adopted by the State Board of Education. The revised  
26 Improvement Plan shall address measurable outcomes for  
27 improving student performance so that such performance meets  
28 adequate yearly progress criteria as specified by the State  
29 Board of Education.

30 (d) All federal requirements apply to schools and school  
31 districts utilizing federal funds under Title I, Part A of the  
32 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

33 (e) The State Board of Education, from any moneys it may  
34 have available for this purpose, must implement and administer  
35 a grant program that provides 2-year grants to school districts  
36 on the academic watch list and other school districts that have

1 the lowest achieving students, as determined by the State Board  
2 of Education, to be used to improve student achievement. In  
3 order to receive a grant under this program, a school district  
4 must establish an accountability program. The accountability  
5 program must involve the use of statewide testing standards and  
6 local evaluation measures. A grant shall be automatically  
7 renewed when achievement goals are met. The Board may adopt any  
8 rules necessary to implement and administer this grant program.

9 (Source: P.A. 93-470, eff. 8-8-03.)

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
11 becoming law.