

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Service Education Act.

6 Section 5. Policy. Community service education programs
7 educate students about the value of civic involvement through
8 actual school-sponsored involvement in their communities.
9 Students, citizens, civic groups, businesses, and community
10 organizations benefit from community service education
11 programs by developing strong partnerships that enhance the
12 value of schools and quality of life in communities. Community
13 service education programs build stronger schools, stronger
14 communities, and a positive environment.

15 In many communities, the school district is the economic
16 engine that provides jobs, economic stability, and prosperity.
17 Community service education programs enable more school
18 districts and communities to prosper economically while
19 promoting good citizenship. School districts that offer
20 community service education programs enjoy a significant
21 return on their investment. Hence, the policy of the State of
22 Illinois is to support such programs by providing incentives to
23 encourage school districts to offer community service
24 education programs.

25 Section 10. Community Service Education Program. There is
26 created the Community Service Education Program, administered
27 by the State Board of Education, in cooperation with school
28 districts. Participation in this program is voluntary. The
29 following items may serve as best practices to be considered by
30 school districts opting to implement the program under Section
31 25 of this Act:

1 (1) The program contains provisions and standards
2 conducive to the establishment of community, business, and
3 education partnerships that give use to lasting
4 relationships between school districts and partners that
5 are mutually beneficial.

6 (2) The program provides greater community access to
7 school facilities and programs to promote increased
8 achievement by children.

9 (3) The program makes school facilities available for
10 citizen use.

11 (4) The program organizes local residents to assess
12 local conditions, set priorities, identify program needs,
13 and participate in program planning and development.

14 (5) The program identifies and utilizes resources
15 within the community or those that impact on the community.

16 (6) The program assists in the initiation of new and
17 improved programs in an effort to improve opportunities for
18 all residents of the community.

19 (7) The program provides effective youth training
20 programs and employment counseling in schools, as well as
21 paid work experience linking the schools with the private
22 sector.

23 (8) The program provides student involvement in
24 community service learning activities, organizations, and
25 intergenerational programs.

26 (9) The program provides volunteer programs to bring
27 parents, business personnel, community agency
28 representatives, retirees, and other students into the
29 classroom as participants in the teaching of students.

30 (10) The program provides supplemental or additional
31 programs for junior high school and high school age youth
32 that may consist of enrichment, individual, and
33 supplemental activities, as well as recreational,
34 cultural, and vocational programs.

35 (11) The program provides programs to meet the
36 individual needs of all people who reside in the school

1 district being served.

2 Nothing set forth in items (7) through (11) shall be
3 constituted as either requiring or permitting the Community
4 Service Education Program to have any program or programs
5 serving the same purpose or purposes as those elsewhere
6 specifically provided for in the School Code.

7 The Community Service Education Program shall avoid
8 duplication of existing programs operated by other entities in
9 whole or in part within a school district. The Community
10 Service Education Program shall provide for the involvement of
11 the residents of a school district in ascertaining the identity
12 of local problems and in ascertaining the community resources
13 available for dealing with these problems.

14 Section 25. Establishment of community service education
15 program by school district. A school district may establish
16 and operate a community service education program that
17 qualifies for a grant under Section 92 of this Act by complying
18 with the provisions of this Act and any rules adopted by the
19 State Board of Education under Section 500 of this Act.

20 Section 60. Local input. Each school board that establishes
21 a community service education program under Section 25 of this
22 Act shall establish a process to obtain input into the
23 development and operation of its community service education
24 program by members who represent various service
25 organizations, churches, public schools, units of local
26 government, businesses and professions, public and private
27 agencies serving youth, families, or senior citizens,
28 municipal governments, townships, libraries, park, recreation,
29 or forest preserve districts located in whole or in part within
30 the school district, and any other group or groups
31 participating in the school district's community service
32 education program.

33 Section 65. Director of Community Service Education. Each

1 school district maintaining a community service education
2 program established under Section 25 of this Act shall employ
3 or appoint a Director of Community Service Education. The
4 Director shall be responsible for all aspects of the school
5 district's community service education program. An individual
6 employed solely as a Director of Community Service Education
7 need not hold a teaching or administrative certificate from the
8 State of Illinois.

9 Section 75. Non-duplication of programs. A school district
10 that establishes a community service education program under
11 Section 25 of this Act must strive to ensure that its community
12 service education program does not duplicate services offered
13 by other entities or school programs.

14 Section 80. Community service education consortiums. Any
15 school district that opts to conduct a community service
16 education program pursuant to the provisions of this Act may
17 enter into an agreement with other school districts to form a
18 consortium for the purpose of offering a consolidated community
19 service education program.

20 Section 85. Partnership agreements. A school district
21 community service education program established under Section
22 25 of this Act shall have the power to enter into agreements
23 with any other public or private entity or entities for the
24 furnishing of any component of its community service education
25 program. These agreements may provide for payments from the
26 school district's community service education fund to other
27 entities as contributions to the expenses of the program or
28 programs covered by these agreements.

29 Section 90. Funding. A school district maintaining a
30 community service education program established under Section
31 25 of this Act is authorized to receive money from the State,
32 as grants that are subject to appropriation, and other public

1 and private sources for the support of its program or any
2 component thereof and to expend this money pursuant to the
3 provisions of this Act, subject to the terms and conditions
4 under which the money is received. A not-for-profit
5 organization may be established in support of the program, in
6 accordance with the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of
7 1986, and may seek tax exemption for the organization from the
8 Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Revenue. Subject
9 to guidelines approved by the school board, the school district
10 is also authorized to charge and collect fees from persons
11 voluntarily participating in a specific community service
12 education program. The school board shall also have the
13 authority to designate funds to be used for community service
14 education purposes.

15 Section 92. Grants. Subject to the availability of funds
16 for the specific purpose of making grants for community service
17 education, the State Board of Education is authorized to make
18 grants to school districts operating community service
19 education programs that meet the standards set forth in this
20 Act and any rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

21 Section 500. Rules. The State Board of Education may adopt
22 any rules that are necessary to implement and administer this
23 Act.

24 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.