

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 2-3.123 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.123)

7 Sec. 2-3.123. Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence  
8 pilot program. From appropriations made for purposes of this  
9 Section, the State Board of Education shall implement and  
10 administer a Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence pilot  
11 program for the study and evaluation of autism and to provide  
12 related ~~teacher~~ training for teachers, paraprofessionals, and  
13 respite workers, therapist training, and consultative  
14 services. The program shall be operated over a period of 3  
15 school years, beginning with the 2005-2006 ~~1997-1998~~ school  
16 year. The State Board of Education is authorized to make grants  
17 to school districts and other programs that apply to  
18 participate in the Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence  
19 program as implemented and administered by the State Board of  
20 Education. The State Board of Education shall by rule provide  
21 the form of application and criteria to be used and applied in  
22 selecting participating school districts and other programs.

23 (Source: P.A. 90-498, eff. 8-18-97; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
25 becoming law.