



## 95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2007 and 2008

HB3654

Introduced 2/28/2007, by Rep. Esther Golar

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 48/20  
110 ILCS 48/25

Amends the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act. Provides that in any fiscal year in which an appropriation for the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative is made, the consortium shall guarantee that support will be available to an admitted cohort for the cohort's training for that fiscal year (instead of providing that the consortium shall guarantee that support will be available to an admitted cohort through the cohort's full period of training). Makes changes concerning expenditures under the Initiative with regard to requests to waive the teaching obligation or to defer repayment, the way grants are awarded to provide the required support for a cohort of candidates, and what a program budget must include. Provides that grant funds may be used by any member of a consortium to offset the costs of child care and other direct expenses that are necessary to permit candidates to maintain their class schedules. Effective July 1, 2007.

LRB095 06497 NHT 26598 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 20 and 25 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 48/20)

7 Sec. 20. Selection of grantees. The State Board shall award  
8 grants to qualified consortia that reflect the distribution and  
9 diversity of hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff positions  
10 across this State. In awarding grants, the State Board shall  
11 select programs that successfully address Initiative criteria  
12 and that reflect a diversity of strategies in terms of serving  
13 urban areas, serving rural areas, the nature of the  
14 participating institutions of higher education, and the nature  
15 of hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff teaching positions  
16 on which a program is focused.

17 The State Board shall select consortia that meet the  
18 following requirements:

19 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one  
20 4-year institution of higher education with an accredited  
21 teacher preparation program, at least one school district  
22 or group of schools, and one or more community  
23 organizations. The consortium may also include a 2-year

1 institution of higher education or a school employee union  
2 or both.

3 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education  
4 participating in the consortium shall have past,  
5 demonstrated success in preparing teachers for elementary  
6 or secondary schools serving a substantial percentage of  
7 low-income students.

8 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set  
9 of target schools serving a substantial percentage of  
10 low-income students that will be the primary focus of the  
11 program. The consortium shall articulate the steps that it  
12 will carry out in preparing teachers for its target  
13 hard-to-staff schools and in preparing teachers for one or  
14 more hard-to-staff teaching positions in its target  
15 schools.

16 (4) Candidate in a program under the Initiative must  
17 hold a high school diploma or its equivalent and must meet  
18 either the definition of "parent and community leaders" or  
19 the definition of "paraeducators" contained in Section 10  
20 of this Act.

21 (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures  
22 for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare  
23 highly competent teachers. Professional preparation shall  
24 include on-going direct experience in target schools and  
25 evaluation of this experience.

26 (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts

1 of candidates who begin by moving through the program  
2 together. The program shall be offered on a schedule that  
3 enables candidates to work full time while participating in  
4 the program and allows paraeducators to continue in their  
5 current positions. In any fiscal year in which an  
6 appropriation for the Initiative is made, the ~~The~~  
7 consortium shall guarantee that support will be available  
8 to an admitted cohort for the cohort's training for that  
9 fiscal year ~~through the cohort's full period of training.~~  
10 At the beginning of the Initiative, programs that are  
11 already operating and existing cohorts of candidates under  
12 this model shall be eligible for funding.

13 (7) The institutions of higher education participating  
14 in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the  
15 same amount of funds in implementing the program that these  
16 institutions spend per student on similar educational  
17 programs. Grants received by the consortium shall  
18 supplement and not supplant these amounts.

19 (8) The State Board shall establish additional  
20 criteria for review of proposals, including criteria that  
21 address the following issues:

22 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of  
23 higher education in preparing candidates for  
24 hard-to-staff schools and positions and in working  
25 with students with non-traditional backgrounds.

26 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,

1 including strategies for overcoming institutional  
2 barriers to the progress of non-traditional  
3 candidates.

4 (C) If a community college is a participant, the  
5 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements  
6 and guarantees between the community college and the  
7 4-year institution of higher education.

8 (D) The number of candidates to be trained in the  
9 planned cohort or cohorts and the capacity of the  
10 consortium for adding cohorts in future cycles.

11 (E) Experience of the community organization or  
12 organizations in organizing parents and community  
13 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong  
14 relational school culture.

15 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons  
16 designated by the 4-year institution of higher  
17 education to be responsible for cohort support and the  
18 development of a shared learning and social  
19 environment among candidates.

20 (G) The consortium's plan for collective  
21 consortium decision-making, including mechanisms for  
22 community and candidate input.

23 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the  
24 program on the quality of education in the target  
25 schools.

26 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of

1 targeted schools and positions, and the use in  
2 curriculum and instructional planning of principles  
3 for effective education for adults.

4 (J) The availability of classes under the program  
5 in places and times accessible to the candidates.

6 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be  
7 maintained by candidates as a condition of continuing  
8 in the program.

9 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher  
10 education to ensure that candidates take advantage of  
11 existing financial aid resources before using the loan  
12 funds described in Section 25 of this Act.

13 (M) The availability of supportive services,  
14 including counseling, tutoring, and child care.

15 (N) A plan for continued participation of  
16 graduates of the program in a program of support for at  
17 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

18 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation  
19 of candidates' teaching skills that ensures that  
20 graduates of the program are as prepared for teaching  
21 as other individuals completing the institution of  
22 higher education's preparation program for the  
23 certificate sought.

24 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides  
25 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates  
26 towards graduation and the impact of the program on the

1 target schools and their communities.

2 (Q) Contributions from schools, school districts,  
3 and other consortia members to the program, including  
4 stipends for candidates during their student teaching.

5 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the  
6 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced  
7 requirements for external funding in subsequent  
8 cycles.

9 (S) The inclusion in the planned program of  
10 strategies derived from community organizing that will  
11 help candidates develop tools for working with parents  
12 and other community members.

13 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05; 94-979, eff. 6-30-06.)

14 (110 ILCS 48/25)

15 Sec. 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

16 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement a  
17 program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of tuition and  
18 direct expenses of candidates under the program in excess of  
19 grants-in-aid and other forgivable loans received. All  
20 students admitted to a cohort shall be eligible for such loans.  
21 Loans shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes 5 years  
22 of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching  
23 positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of  
24 service. The State Board shall establish standards for the  
25 approval of requests ~~from programs~~ to waive this obligation for

1 individual candidates and for requests for deferral of  
2 repayment for work interruptions or other hardships after  
3 certification. The State Board shall also define standards for  
4 the fiscal management of these loan funds.

5 (b) Grants under the Initiative shall be awarded in such a  
6 way as to provide the required support for a cohort of  
7 candidates for any fiscal year in which an appropriation for  
8 the Initiative is made ~~the cohort's entire training period.~~  
9 Program budgets must show expenditures and needed funds for the  
10 entire period that candidates are expected to be enrolled.

11 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant  
12 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of  
13 higher education for candidates.

14 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the  
15 costs of child care and other direct expenses that are  
16 necessary to permit candidates to maintain their ~~a full~~ class  
17 schedules ~~schedule~~. Grant funds may be used by any member of a  
18 consortium to offset such costs, whether the needed services  
19 are ~~Child care may be~~ provided by the community organization or  
20 organizations or another member of the consortium or are ~~be~~  
21 independently contracted for.

22 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant  
23 funds to cover the additional costs of offering classes in  
24 community settings and for tutoring services.

25 (f) The community organization or organizations may  
26 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of



1 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of  
2 potential candidates, for providing space in the community, and  
3 for working with school personnel to facilitate individual work  
4 experiences and support of candidates.

5 (g) The school district or school employee union or both  
6 may receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of  
7 supporting the work experiences of candidates and providing  
8 mentors for graduates. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
9 Section 10-20.15 of the School Code, school districts may also  
10 use these or other applicable public funds to pay participants  
11 in programs under the Initiative for student teaching required  
12 by an accredited teacher preparation program.

13 (h) One member of the consortium may expend funds to cover  
14 the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

15 (i) Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for  
16 required developmental classes for candidates beginning a  
17 program.

18 (Source: P.A. 93-802, eff. 1-1-05; 94-979, eff. 6-30-06.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
20 2007.