

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 2-3.71 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71)  
7 Sec. 2-3.71. Grants for preschool educational programs.

8 (a) Preschool program.

9 (1) The State Board of Education shall implement and  
10 administer a grant program under the provisions of this  
11 subsection which shall consist of grants to public school  
12 districts and other eligible entities, as defined by the  
13 State Board of Education, to conduct voluntary preschool  
14 educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 which include  
15 a parent education component. A public school district  
16 which receives grants under this subsection may  
17 subcontract with other entities that are eligible to  
18 conduct a preschool educational program. These grants must  
19 be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from  
20 any other source.

21 (2) (Blank).

22 (3) Any teacher of preschool children in the program  
23 authorized by this subsection shall hold an early childhood

1 teaching certificate.

2 (4) This paragraph (4) applies before July 1, 2006 and  
3 after June 30, 2008. The State Board of Education shall  
4 provide the primary source of funding through  
5 appropriations for the program. Such funds shall be  
6 distributed for the benefit of children who because of  
7 their home and community environment are subject to such  
8 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that  
9 they have been determined as a result of screening  
10 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such  
11 screening procedures shall be based on criteria  
12 established by the State Board of Education.

13 (4.5) This paragraph (4.5) applies from July 1, 2006  
14 through June 30, 2008. The State Board of Education shall  
15 provide the primary source of funding through  
16 appropriations for the program. Such funds shall be  
17 distributed to achieve a goal of "Preschool for All  
18 Children" for the benefit of all children whose families  
19 choose to participate in the program. Based on available  
20 appropriations, newly funded programs shall be selected  
21 through a process giving first priority to qualified  
22 programs serving primarily at-risk children and second  
23 priority to qualified programs serving primarily children  
24 with a family income of less than 4 times the poverty  
25 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by  
26 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the

1 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For purposes of this  
2 paragraph (4.5), at-risk children are those who because of  
3 their home and community environment are subject to such  
4 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages to  
5 cause them to have been determined as a result of screening  
6 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such  
7 screening procedures shall be based on criteria  
8 established by the State Board of Education.

9 On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which  
10 the General Assembly provides funding for new programs  
11 under this paragraph (4.5), the State Board of Education  
12 shall report to the General Assembly on what percentage of  
13 new funding was provided to programs serving primarily  
14 at-risk children, what percentage of new funding was  
15 provided to programs serving primarily children with a  
16 family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty  
17 level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to  
18 other programs.

19 Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (4.5),  
20 grantees under the program must enter into a memorandum of  
21 understanding with the appropriate local Head Start  
22 agency. This memorandum must be entered into no later than  
23 3 months after the award of a grantee's grant under the  
24 program, except that, in the case of the 2008-2009 program  
25 year, the memorandum must be entered into no later than the  
26 deadline set by the State Board of Education for

1 applications to participate in the program in fiscal year  
2 2010, and must address collaboration between the grantee's  
3 program and the local Head Start agency on certain issues,  
4 which shall include without limitation the following:

5 (A) educational activities, curricular objectives,  
6 and instruction;

7 (B) public information dissemination and access to  
8 programs for families contacting programs;

9 (C) service areas;

10 (D) selection priorities for eligible children to  
11 be served by programs;

12 (E) maximizing the impact of federal and State  
13 funding to benefit young children;

14 (F) staff training, including opportunities for  
15 joint staff training;

16 (G) technical assistance;

17 (H) communication and parent outreach for smooth  
18 transitions to kindergarten;

19 (I) provision and use of facilities,  
20 transportation, and other program elements;

21 (J) facilitating each program's fulfillment of its  
22 statutory and regulatory requirements;

23 (K) improving local planning and collaboration;  
24 and

25 (L) providing comprehensive services for the  
26 neediest Illinois children and families.

1       If the appropriate local Head Start agency is unable or  
2       unwilling to enter into a memorandum of understanding as  
3       required under this paragraph (4.5), the memorandum of  
4       understanding requirement shall not apply and the grantee  
5       under the program must notify the State Board of Education  
6       in writing of the Head Start agency's inability or  
7       unwillingness. The State Board of Education shall compile  
8       all such written notices and make them available to the  
9       public.

10       (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
11       provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school  
12       districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate  
13       children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State  
14       Board of Education shall require school districts and other  
15       eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or  
16       guardians of children before any evaluations are  
17       conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage  
18       local school districts and other eligible entities to  
19       evaluate the population of preschool children in their  
20       communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to  
21       this subsection, where appropriate.

22       (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the  
23       General Assembly by July 1, 2007 and every 3 years  
24       thereafter on the results and progress of students who were  
25       enrolled in preschool educational programs, including an  
26       assessment of which programs have been most successful in

1 promoting academic excellence and alleviating academic  
2 failure. The State Board of Education shall assess the  
3 academic progress of all students who have been enrolled in  
4 preschool educational programs.

5 (b) (Blank).

6 (Source: P.A. 94-506, eff. 8-8-05; 94-1054, eff. 7-25-06.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
8 becoming law.