

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 3-15.12 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/3-15.12) (from Ch. 122, par. 3-15.12)

7 Sec. 3-15.12. High school equivalency testing program. The  
8 regional superintendent of schools shall make available for  
9 qualified individuals residing within the region a High School  
10 Equivalency Testing Program. For that purpose the regional  
11 superintendent alone or with other regional superintendents  
12 may establish and supervise a testing center or centers to  
13 administer the secure forms of the high school level Test of  
14 General Educational Development to qualified persons. Such  
15 centers shall be under the supervision of the regional  
16 superintendent in whose region such centers are located,  
17 subject to the approval of the President of the Illinois  
18 Community College Board.

19 An individual is eligible to apply to the regional  
20 superintendent of schools for the region in which he or she  
21 resides if he or she is: (a) a person who is 17 ~~18~~ years of age  
22 or older, has maintained residence in the State of Illinois,  
23 and is not a high school graduate, ~~but whose high school class~~

1 ~~has graduated; (b) a member of the armed forces of the United~~  
2 ~~States on active duty who is 17 years of age or older and who is~~  
3 ~~stationed in Illinois or is a legal resident of Illinois; (c) a~~  
4 ~~ward of the Department of Corrections who is 17 years of age or~~  
5 ~~older or an inmate confined in any branch of the Illinois State~~  
6 ~~Penitentiary or in a county correctional facility who is 17~~  
7 ~~years of age or older; (d) a female who is 17 years of age or~~  
8 ~~older who is unable to attend school because she is either~~  
9 ~~pregnant or the mother of one or more children; (e) a male 17~~  
10 ~~years of age or older who is unable to attend school because he~~  
11 ~~is a father of one or more children; (f) a person who is~~  
12 ~~successfully completing an alternative education program under~~  
13 ~~Section 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article 13B; or (c) ~~(g)~~ a~~  
14 ~~person who is enrolled in a youth education program sponsored~~  
15 ~~by the Illinois National Guard; or (h) a person who is 17 years~~  
16 ~~of age or older who has been a dropout for a period of at least~~  
17 ~~one year. For purposes of this Section, residence is that abode~~  
18 ~~which the applicant considers his or her home. Applicants may~~  
19 ~~provide as sufficient proof of such residence and as an~~  
20 ~~acceptable form of identification a driver's license, valid~~  
21 ~~passport, military ID, or other form of government-issued~~  
22 ~~national or foreign identification that shows the applicant's~~  
23 ~~name, address, date of birth, signature, and photograph ~~picture~~~~  
24 ~~identification card and two pieces of correctly addressed and~~  
25 ~~postmarked mail. Such regional superintendent shall determine~~  
26 ~~if the applicant meets statutory and regulatory state~~

1 standards. If qualified the applicant shall at the time of such  
2 application pay a fee established by the Illinois Community  
3 College Board, which fee shall be paid into a special fund  
4 under the control and supervision of the regional  
5 superintendent. Such moneys received by the regional  
6 superintendent shall be used, first, for the expenses incurred  
7 in administering and scoring the examination, and next for  
8 other educational programs that are developed and designed by  
9 the regional superintendent of schools to assist those who  
10 successfully complete the high school level test of General  
11 Education Development in furthering their academic development  
12 or their ability to secure and retain gainful employment,  
13 including programs for the competitive award based on test  
14 scores of college or adult education scholarship grants or  
15 similar educational incentives. Any excess moneys shall be paid  
16 into the institute fund.

17 Any applicant who has achieved the minimum passing  
18 standards as established by the Illinois Community College  
19 Board shall be notified in writing by the regional  
20 superintendent and shall be issued a high school equivalency  
21 certificate on the forms provided by the Illinois Community  
22 College Board. The regional superintendent shall then certify  
23 to the Illinois Community College Board the score of the  
24 applicant and such other and additional information that may be  
25 required by the Illinois Community College Board. The moneys  
26 received therefrom shall be used in the same manner as provided

1 for in this Section.

2 Any applicant who has attained the age of 17 ~~18~~ years and  
3 maintained residence in the State of Illinois and is not a high  
4 school graduate, any person who has enrolled in a youth  
5 education program sponsored by the Illinois National Guard, but  
6 ~~whose high school class has graduated, any ward of the~~  
7 ~~Department of Corrections who has attained the age of 17 years,~~  
8 ~~any inmate confined in any branch of the Illinois State~~  
9 ~~Penitentiary or in a county correctional facility who has~~  
10 ~~attained the age of 17 years, any member of the armed forces of~~  
11 ~~the United States on active duty who has attained the age of 17~~  
12 ~~years and who is stationed in Illinois or is a legal resident~~  
13 ~~of Illinois, any female who has attained the age of 17 years~~  
14 ~~and is either pregnant or the mother of one or more children,~~  
15 ~~any male who has attained the age of 17 years and is the father~~  
16 ~~of one or more children,~~ or any person who has successfully  
17 completed an alternative education program under Section  
18 2-3.81, Article 13A, or Article 13B is eligible to apply for a  
19 high school equivalency certificate (if he or she meets the  
20 requirements prescribed by the Illinois Community College  
21 Board) upon showing evidence that he or she has completed,  
22 successfully, the high school level General Educational  
23 Development Tests, administered by the United States Armed  
24 Forces Institute, official GED Centers established in other  
25 states, or at Veterans' Administration Hospitals or the office  
26 of the State Superintendent of Education administered for the

1 Illinois State Penitentiary System and the Department of  
2 Corrections. Such applicant shall apply to the regional  
3 superintendent of the region wherein he has maintained  
4 residence, and upon payment of a fee established by the  
5 Illinois Community College Board the regional superintendent  
6 shall issue a high school equivalency certificate, and  
7 immediately thereafter certify to the Illinois Community  
8 College Board the score of the applicant and such other and  
9 additional information as may be required by the Illinois  
10 Community College Board.

11 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, any  
12 applicant who has been out of school for at least one year may  
13 request the regional superintendent of schools to administer  
14 the restricted GED test upon written request of: The director  
15 of a program who certifies to the Chief Examiner of an official  
16 GED center that the applicant has completed a program of  
17 instruction provided by such agencies as the Job Corps, the  
18 Postal Service Academy or apprenticeship training program; an  
19 employer or program director for purposes of entry into  
20 apprenticeship programs; another State Department of Education  
21 in order to meet regulations established by that Department of  
22 Education, a post high school educational institution for  
23 purposes of admission, the Department of Professional  
24 Regulation for licensing purposes, or the Armed Forces for  
25 induction purposes. The regional superintendent shall  
26 administer such test and the applicant shall be notified in

1 writing that he is eligible to receive the Illinois High School  
2 Equivalency Certificate upon reaching age 17 ~~18~~, provided he  
3 meets the standards established by the Illinois Community  
4 College Board.

5 Any test administered under this Section to an applicant  
6 who does not speak and understand English may at the discretion  
7 of the administering agency be given and answered in any  
8 language in which the test is printed. The regional  
9 superintendent of schools may waive any fees required by this  
10 Section in case of hardship.

11 In counties of over 3,000,000 population a GED certificate  
12 shall contain the signatures of the President of the Illinois  
13 Community College Board, the superintendent, president or  
14 other chief executive officer of the institution where GED  
15 instruction occurred and any other signatures authorized by the  
16 Illinois Community College Board.

17 The regional superintendent of schools shall furnish the  
18 Illinois Community College Board with any information that the  
19 Illinois Community College Board requests with regard to  
20 testing and certificates under this Section.

21 (Source: P.A. 94-108, eff. 7-1-05.)