

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 Public Community College Act is amended by  
5 adding Section 2.24 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 805/2.24 new)

7 Sec. 2.24. College and Career Readiness Pilot Program.

8 (a) The General Assembly finds that there is a direct and  
9 significant link between students being academically prepared  
10 for college and success in postsecondary education. Many  
11 students enter college unprepared for the academic rigors of  
12 college and require noncredit remedial courses to attain skills  
13 and knowledge needed for regular, credit coursework.  
14 Remediation lengthens time to degree, imposes additional costs  
15 on students and colleges, and uses student financial aid for  
16 courses that will not count toward a degree. All high school  
17 juniors take the Prairie State Achievement Examination, which  
18 contains the ACT college assessment exam. ACT test elements and  
19 scores can be correlated to specific course placements in  
20 community colleges. Customized ACT test results can be used in  
21 collaboration with high schools to assist high school students  
22 identify areas for improvement and help them close skill gaps  
23 during their senior year. Greater college and career readiness

1 will reduce the need for remediation, lower educational costs,  
2 shorten time to degree, and increase the overall success rate  
3 of Illinois college students.

4 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board shall create  
5 a 3-year pilot project, to be known as the College and Career  
6 Readiness Pilot Program. The goals of the program are as  
7 follows:

8 (1) To diagnose college readiness by developing a  
9 system to align ACT scores to specific community college  
10 courses in developmental and freshman curriculums.

11 (2) To reduce remediation by decreasing the need for  
12 remedial coursework in mathematics, reading, and writing  
13 at the college level through (i) increasing the number of  
14 students enrolled in a college-prep core curriculum, (ii)  
15 assisting students in improving college readiness skills,  
16 and (iii) increasing successful student transitions into  
17 postsecondary education.

18 (3) To align high school and college curriculums.

19 (4) To provide resources and academic support to  
20 students to enrich the senior year of high school through  
21 remedial or advanced coursework and other interventions.

22 (5) To develop an appropriate evaluation process to  
23 measure the effectiveness of readiness intervention  
24 strategies.

25 (c) The first year of the program created under this  
26 Section shall begin with the high school class of 2008.

1           (1) The State Board shall select 4 community colleges  
2           to participate in the program based on all of the  
3           following:

4                   (A) The percentage of students in developmental  
5                   coursework.

6                   (B) Demographics of student enrollment, including  
7                   socioeconomic status, race and ethnicity, and  
8                   enrollments of first-generation college students.

9                   (C) Geographic diversity.

10                   (D) The willingness of the community college to  
11                   submit developmental and introductory courses to ACT  
12                   for analysis of college placement.

13                   (E) The ability of the community college to partner  
14                   with local high schools to develop college and career  
15                   readiness strategies and college readiness teams.

16           (2) The State Board shall work with ACT to analyze up  
17           to 10 courses at each participating community college for  
18           purposes of determining student placement and college  
19           readiness.

20           (3) Each participating community college shall  
21           establish an agreement with a high school or schools to do  
22           all of the following:

23                   (A) Create a data-sharing agreement.

24                   (B) Create a Readiness Prescription for each  
25                   student, showing all of the following:

26                           (i) The readiness status for college-level

1 work.

2 (ii) Course recommendations for remediation or  
3 for advanced coursework in Advanced Placement  
4 classes or dual credit and dual enrollment  
5 programs.

6 (iii) Additional academic support services,  
7 including tutoring, mentoring, and college  
8 application assistance.

9 (C) Create college and career readiness teams  
10 comprised of faculty and counselors or advisers from  
11 the community college and high school, the college and  
12 career readiness coordinator from the community  
13 college, and other members as determined by the high  
14 school and community college. The teams may include  
15 local business or civic leaders. The teams shall  
16 develop intervention strategies as follows:

17 (i) Use the Readiness Prescription to develop  
18 a contract with each student for remedial or  
19 advanced coursework to be taken during the senior  
20 year.

21 (ii) Monitor student progress.

22 (iii) Provide readiness support services.

23 (D) Retest students in the spring of 2008 to assess  
24 progress and college readiness.

25 (4) The State Board shall work with participating  
26 community colleges and high schools to develop an

1 appropriate evaluation process to measure effectiveness of  
2 intervention strategies, including all of the following:

3 (A) Baseline data for each participating school.

4 (B) Baseline data for the Illinois system.

5 (C) Comparison of ACT scores from March 2007 to  
6 March 2008.

7 (D) Student enrollment in college in the fall of  
8 2008.

9 (E) Placement of college and career readiness  
10 students in developmental and regular courses in the  
11 fall of 2008.

12 (F) Retention of college and career readiness  
13 students in the spring semester of 2009.

14 (5) The State Board shall work with participating  
15 community colleges and high schools to establish  
16 operational processes and a budget for college and career  
17 readiness pilot programs, including all of the following:

18 (A) Employment of a college and career readiness  
19 coordinator at each community college site.

20 (B) Establishment of a budget.

21 (C) Creation of college and career readiness  
22 teams, resources, and partnership agreements.

23 (d) The second year of the program created under this  
24 Section shall begin with the high school class of 2009. In the  
25 second year, the State Board shall have all of the following  
26 duties:

1           (1) Analyze courses at 3 new community college sites.

2           (2) Undertake intervention strategies through college  
3 and career readiness teams with students in the class of  
4 2009.

5           (3) Monitor and assist college and career readiness  
6 graduates from the class of 2008 in college.

7           (e) The third year of the program created under this  
8 Section shall begin with the high school class of 2010. In the  
9 third year, the State Board shall have all of the following  
10 duties:

11           (1) Analyze courses at 5 new community college sites.

12           (2) Add college and career readiness teams at 3 new  
13 sites (from year 2 of the program).

14           (3) Undertake intervention strategies through college  
15 and career readiness teams with students of the class of  
16 2010 at 7 sites.

17           (4) Monitor and assist students from the classes of  
18 2008 and 2009 in college.

19           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.