

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, The General Assembly finds and declares the  
3 following:

4 (a) Illinois has over one million deaf and hard of  
5 hearing residents;

6 (b) American Sign Language (ASL) is a fully-developed,  
7 visual-gestural language with distinct grammar, syntax,  
8 and symbols and is one of hundreds of signed languages in  
9 the world;

10 (c) The American deaf community is a group of citizens  
11 who are members of a unique culture who share ASL as their  
12 common language; and

13 (d) High school graduation requirements under Section  
14 27-22 of the School Code require students to take one year  
15 of music, art, vocational education, or a foreign language,  
16 which includes ASL; and

17 WHEREAS, The General Assembly hereby also declares the  
18 purpose and intent of this amendatory Act to be as follows:

19 (a) To recognize ASL as the language of the American  
20 deaf community; and

21 (b) To authorize and encourage public and independent  
22 schools, including post-secondary schools, to offer ASL as  
23 a course of study and to accept ASL credits as  
24 foreign-language credits; therefore

1           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
2 **represented in the General Assembly:**

3           Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections  
4 10-20.46 and 34-18.37 as follows:

5           (105 ILCS 5/10-20.46 new)

6           Sec. 10-20.46. American Sign Language courses. School  
7 boards are encouraged to implement American Sign Language  
8 courses into school foreign language curriculum. Rulemaking  
9 authority to implement this amendatory Act of the 96th General  
10 Assembly, if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in  
11 accordance with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative  
12 Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint  
13 Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so  
14 adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

15           (105 ILCS 5/34-18.37 new)

16           Sec. 34-18.37. American Sign Language courses. The school  
17 board is encouraged to implement American Sign Language courses  
18 into school foreign language curriculum. Rulemaking authority  
19 to implement this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly,  
20 if any, is conditioned on the rules being adopted in accordance  
21 with all provisions of the Illinois Administrative Procedure  
22 Act and all rules and procedures of the Joint Committee on  
23 Administrative Rules; any purported rule not so adopted, for

1 whatever reason, is unauthorized.

2 Section 10. The University of Illinois Act is amended by  
3 changing Section 8 and by adding Section 45 as follows:

4 (110 ILCS 305/8) (from Ch. 144, par. 29)

5 Sec. 8. Admissions.

6 (a) No student shall be admitted to instruction in any of  
7 the departments of the University who shall not have attained  
8 to the age of fifteen (15) years, and who shall not previously  
9 undergo a satisfactory examination in each of the branches  
10 ordinarily taught in the common schools of the state.

11 (b) In addition, commencing in the fall of 1993, no new  
12 student shall then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in  
13 any of the departments or colleges of the University unless  
14 such student also has satisfactorily completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and  
2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that institutions may admit individual  
6 applicants if the institution determines through  
7 assessment or through evaluation based on learning  
8 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational  
9 education courses and courses taken in a charter school  
10 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the  
11 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially  
12 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be  
13 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.  
14 The Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois shall  
15 not discriminate in the University's admissions process  
16 against an applicant for admission because of the  
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also  
19 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to  
20 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in  
21 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants  
22 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance  
23 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,  
24 providing that in either case, the institution  
25 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum  
26 courses or other academic activities that compensate for

1 course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of the 15 units of coursework  
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (c) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
10 coursework required by subsection (b).

11 (d) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 305/45 new)

18 Sec. 45. American Sign Language courses. The University may  
19 award academic credit for the successful completion of any  
20 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the  
21 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the  
22 foreign language requirements of the University, except for  
23 those requirements related to the content of a student's  
24 academic major.

1           Section 15. The Southern Illinois University Management  
2 Act is amended by changing Section 8e and by adding Section 30  
3 as follows:

4           (110 ILCS 520/8e) (from Ch. 144, par. 658e)  
5           Sec. 8e. Admissions.

6           (a) Commencing in the fall of 1993, no new student shall  
7 then or thereafter be admitted to instruction in any of the  
8 departments or colleges of the University unless such student  
9 also has satisfactorily completed:

10           (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
11 the following 5 categories:

12           (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
13 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
14 years may be collegiate level instruction;

15           (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
16 and government);

17           (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
18 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
19 fundamentals of computer programming);

20           (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

21           (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
22 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
23 vocational education or art;

24           (2) except that institutions may admit individual  
25 applicants if the institution determines through

1 assessment or through evaluation based on learning  
2 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational  
3 education courses and courses taken in a charter school  
4 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the  
5 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially  
6 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be  
7 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.

8 The Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University shall  
9 not discriminate in the University's admissions process  
10 against an applicant for admission because of the  
11 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
12 under Article 27A of the School Code. Institutions may also  
13 admit 1) applicants who did not have an opportunity to  
14 complete the minimum college preparatory curriculum in  
15 high school, and 2) educationally disadvantaged applicants  
16 who are admitted to the formal organized special assistance  
17 programs that are tailored to the needs of such students,  
18 providing that in either case, the institution  
19 incorporates in the applicant's baccalaureate curriculum  
20 courses or other academic activities that compensate for  
21 course deficiencies; and

22 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
23 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
24 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
25 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
26 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5

1 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

2 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
3 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
4 coursework required by subsection (a).

5 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
6 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
7 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
8 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
9 admission.

10 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

11 (110 ILCS 520/30 new)

12 Sec. 30. American Sign Language courses. The University may  
13 award academic credit for the successful completion of any  
14 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the  
15 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the  
16 foreign language requirements of the University, except for  
17 those requirements related to the content of a student's  
18 academic major.

19 Section 20. The Chicago State University Law is amended by  
20 changing Section 5-85 and by adding Section 5-140 as follows:

21 (110 ILCS 660/5-85)

22 Sec. 5-85. Admission requirements.

23 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any



1 of the departments or colleges of the Chicago State University  
2 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

14 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
15 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
16 vocational education or art;

17 (2) except that Chicago State University may admit  
18 individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
19 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
20 coursework taken, including vocational education courses  
21 and courses taken in a charter school established under  
22 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
23 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
24 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
25 high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
26 Trustees of Chicago State University shall not

1 discriminate in the University's admissions process  
2 against an applicant for admission because of the  
3 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
4 under Article 27A of the School Code. Chicago State  
5 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
6 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
7 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
8 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
9 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
10 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
11 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
12 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic  
13 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

14 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
15 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
16 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
17 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
18 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
19 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

20 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

23 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
24 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
25 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
26 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to

1 admission.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

3 (110 ILCS 660/5-140 new)

4 Sec. 5-140. American Sign Language courses. The University  
5 may award academic credit for the successful completion of any  
6 American Sign Language course offered or approved by the  
7 University, which may be applied toward the satisfaction of the  
8 foreign language requirements of the University, except for  
9 those requirements related to the content of a student's  
10 academic major.

11 Section 25. The Eastern Illinois University Law is amended  
12 by changing Section 10-85 and by adding Section 10-140 as  
13 follows:

14 (110 ILCS 665/10-85)

15 Sec. 10-85. Admission requirements.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
17 of the departments or colleges of the Eastern Illinois  
18 University unless such student also has satisfactorily  
19 completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2

1 years may be collegiate level instruction;

2 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
3 and government);

4 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
5 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
6 fundamentals of computer programming);

7 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

8 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
9 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
10 vocational education or art;

11 (2) except that Eastern Illinois University may admit  
12 individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
13 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
14 coursework taken, including vocational education courses  
15 and courses taken in a charter school established under  
16 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
17 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
18 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
19 high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
20 Trustees of Eastern Illinois University shall not  
21 discriminate in the University's admissions process  
22 against an applicant for admission because of the  
23 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
24 under Article 27A of the School Code. Eastern Illinois  
25 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
26 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory

1 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
2 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
3 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
4 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
5 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
6 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic  
7 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

8 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
9 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
10 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
11 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
12 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
13 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

14 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
15 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
16 coursework required by subsection (a).

17 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
18 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
19 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
20 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
21 admission.

22 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

23 (110 ILCS 665/10-140 new)

24 Sec. 10-140. American Sign Language courses. The  
25 University may award academic credit for the successful

1 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
2 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
3 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
4 University, except for those requirements related to the  
5 content of a student's academic major.

6 Section 30. The Governors State University Law is amended  
7 by changing Section 15-85 and by adding Section 15-140 as  
8 follows:

9 (110 ILCS 670/15-85)

10 Sec. 15-85. Admission requirements.

11 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
12 of the departments or colleges of the Governors State  
13 University unless such student also has satisfactorily  
14 completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that Governors State University may admit  
6 individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
7 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
8 coursework taken, including vocational education courses  
9 and courses taken in a charter school established under  
10 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
11 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
12 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
13 high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
14 Trustees of Governors State University shall not  
15 discriminate in the University's admissions process  
16 against an applicant for admission because of the  
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Governors State  
19 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
20 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
21 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
22 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
23 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
24 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
25 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
26 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
10 coursework required by subsection (a).

11 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 670/15-140 new)

18 Sec. 15-140. American Sign Language courses. The  
19 University may award academic credit for the successful  
20 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
21 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
22 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
23 University, except for those requirements related to the  
24 content of a student's academic major.



1 Section 35. The Illinois State University Law is amended by  
2 changing Section 20-85 and by adding Section 20-145 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 675/20-85)

4 Sec. 20-85. Admission requirements.

5 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
6 of the departments or colleges of the Illinois State University  
7 unless such student also has satisfactorily completed:

8 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
9 the following 5 categories:

10 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
11 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
12 years may be collegiate level instruction;

13 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
14 and government);

15 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
16 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
17 fundamentals of computer programming);

18 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

19 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
20 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
21 vocational education or art;

22 (2) except that Illinois State University may admit  
23 individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
24 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
25 coursework taken, including vocational education courses

1 and courses taken in a charter school established under  
2 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
3 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
4 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
5 high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
6 Trustees of Illinois State University shall not  
7 discriminate in the University's admissions process  
8 against an applicant for admission because of the  
9 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
10 under Article 27A of the School Code. Illinois State  
11 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
12 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
13 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
14 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
15 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
16 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
17 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
18 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic  
19 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

20 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
21 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
22 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
23 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
24 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
25 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

26 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall

1 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
2 coursework required by subsection (a).

3 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
4 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
5 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
6 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
7 admission.

8 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

9 (110 ILCS 675/20-145 new)

10 Sec. 20-145. American Sign Language courses. The  
11 University may award academic credit for the successful  
12 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
13 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
14 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
15 University, except for those requirements related to the  
16 content of a student's academic major.

17 Section 40. The Northeastern Illinois University Law is  
18 amended by changing Section 25-85 and by adding Section 25-140  
19 as follows:

20 (110 ILCS 680/25-85)

21 Sec. 25-85. Admission requirements.

22 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
23 of the departments or colleges of the Northeastern Illinois

1 University unless such student also has satisfactorily  
2 completed:

3 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
4 the following 5 categories:

5 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
6 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
7 years may be collegiate level instruction;

8 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
9 and government);

10 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
11 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
12 fundamentals of computer programming);

13 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

14 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
15 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
16 vocational education or art;

17 (2) except that Northeastern Illinois University may  
18 admit individual applicants if it determines through  
19 assessment or through evaluation based on learning  
20 outcomes of the coursework taken, including vocational  
21 education courses and courses taken in a charter school  
22 established under Article 27A of the School Code, that the  
23 applicant demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially  
24 equivalent to the knowledge and skills expected to be  
25 acquired in the high school courses required for admission.  
26 The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

1 shall not discriminate in the University's admissions  
2 process against an applicant for admission because of the  
3 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
4 under Article 27A of the School Code. Northeastern Illinois  
5 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
6 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
7 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
8 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
9 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
10 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
11 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
12 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic  
13 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

14 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
15 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
16 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
17 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
18 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
19 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

20 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
21 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
22 coursework required by subsection (a).

23 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
24 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
25 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
26 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to

1 admission.

2 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

3 (110 ILCS 680/25-140 new)

4 Sec. 25-140. American Sign Language courses. The  
5 University may award academic credit for the successful  
6 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
7 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
8 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
9 University, except for those requirements related to the  
10 content of a student's academic major.

11 Section 45. The Northern Illinois University Law is amended  
12 by changing Section 30-85 and by adding Section 30-150 as  
13 follows:

14 (110 ILCS 685/30-85)

15 Sec. 30-85. Admission requirements.

16 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
17 of the departments or colleges of the Northern Illinois  
18 University unless such student also has satisfactorily  
19 completed:

20 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
21 the following 5 categories:

22 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
23 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2

1           years may be collegiate level instruction;

2                   (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
3           and government);

4                   (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
5           advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
6           fundamentals of computer programming);

7                   (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

8                   (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
9                   may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
10           vocational education or art;

11           (2) except that Northern Illinois University may admit  
12           individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
13           or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
14           coursework taken, including vocational education courses  
15           and courses taken in a charter school established under  
16           Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
17           demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
18           to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
19           high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
20           Trustees of Northern Illinois University shall not  
21           discriminate in the University's admissions process  
22           against an applicant for admission because of the  
23           applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
24           under Article 27A of the School Code. Northern Illinois  
25           University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
26           an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory

1 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
2 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
3 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
4 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
5 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
6 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic  
7 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

8 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
9 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
10 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
11 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
12 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
13 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

14 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
15 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
16 coursework required by subsection (a).

17 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
18 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
19 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
20 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
21 admission.

22 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

23 (110 ILCS 685/30-150 new)

24 Sec. 30-150. American Sign Language courses. The  
25 University may award academic credit for the successful



1 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
2 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
3 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
4 University, except for those requirements related to the  
5 content of a student's academic major.

6 Section 50. The Western Illinois University Law is amended  
7 by changing Section 35-85 and by adding Section 35-145 as  
8 follows:

9 (110 ILCS 690/35-85)

10 Sec. 35-85. Admission requirements.

11 (a) No new student shall be admitted to instruction in any  
12 of the departments or colleges of the Western Illinois  
13 University unless such student also has satisfactorily  
14 completed:

15 (1) at least 15 units of high school coursework from  
16 the following 5 categories:

17 (A) 4 years of English (emphasizing written and  
18 oral communications and literature), of which up to 2  
19 years may be collegiate level instruction;

20 (B) 3 years of social studies (emphasizing history  
21 and government);

22 (C) 3 years of mathematics (introductory through  
23 advanced algebra, geometry, trigonometry, or  
24 fundamentals of computer programming);

1 (D) 3 years of science (laboratory sciences); and

2 (E) 2 years of electives in foreign language, which  
3 may be deemed to include American Sign Language, music,  
4 vocational education or art;

5 (2) except that Western Illinois University may admit  
6 individual applicants if it determines through assessment  
7 or through evaluation based on learning outcomes of the  
8 coursework taken, including vocational education courses  
9 and courses taken in a charter school established under  
10 Article 27A of the School Code, that the applicant  
11 demonstrates knowledge and skills substantially equivalent  
12 to the knowledge and skills expected to be acquired in the  
13 high school courses required for admission. The Board of  
14 Trustees of Western Illinois University shall not  
15 discriminate in the University's admissions process  
16 against an applicant for admission because of the  
17 applicant's enrollment in a charter school established  
18 under Article 27A of the School Code. Western Illinois  
19 University may also admit (i) applicants who did not have  
20 an opportunity to complete the minimum college preparatory  
21 curriculum in high school, and (ii) educationally  
22 disadvantaged applicants who are admitted to the formal  
23 organized special assistance programs that are tailored to  
24 the needs of such students, providing that in either case,  
25 the institution incorporates in the applicant's  
26 baccalaureate curriculum courses or other academic

1 activities that compensate for course deficiencies; and

2 (3) except that up to 3 of 15 units of coursework  
3 required by paragraph (1) of this subsection may be  
4 distributed by deducting no more than one unit each from  
5 the categories of social studies, mathematics, sciences  
6 and electives and completing those 3 units in any of the 5  
7 categories of coursework described in paragraph (1).

8 (b) When allocating funds, local boards of education shall  
9 recognize their obligation to their students to offer the  
10 coursework required by subsection (a).

11 (c) A student who has graduated from high school and has  
12 scored within the University's accepted range on the ACT or SAT  
13 shall not be required to take the high school level General  
14 Educational Development (GED) Test as a prerequisite to  
15 admission.

16 (Source: P.A. 91-374, eff. 7-30-99.)

17 (110 ILCS 690/35-145 new)

18 Sec. 35-145. American Sign Language courses. The  
19 University may award academic credit for the successful  
20 completion of any American Sign Language course offered or  
21 approved by the University, which may be applied toward the  
22 satisfaction of the foreign language requirements of the  
23 University, except for those requirements related to the  
24 content of a student's academic major.

1 Section 55. The Public Community College Act is amended by  
2 adding Section 3-29.4 as follows:

3 (110 ILCS 805/3-29.4 new)

4 Sec. 3-29.4. American Sign Language courses. To adopt  
5 regulations for the awarding of academic credit for the  
6 successful completion of any American Sign Language course  
7 offered or approved by a community college, which may be  
8 applied toward the satisfaction of any foreign language  
9 requirements of the community college, except for those  
10 requirements related to the content of a student's academic  
11 major. Rulemaking authority to implement this amendatory Act of  
12 the 96th General Assembly, if any, is conditioned on the rules  
13 being adopted in accordance with all provisions of the Illinois  
14 Administrative Procedure Act and all rules and procedures of  
15 the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules; any purported rule  
16 not so adopted, for whatever reason, is unauthorized.

17 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
18 Section 8.33 as follows:

19 (30 ILCS 805/8.33 new)

20 Sec. 8.33. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8  
21 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
22 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of  
23 the 96th General Assembly.