

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 3. The Department of Human Services Act is amended
5 by adding Section 10-65 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 1305/10-65 new)

7 Sec. 10-65. Gateways to Opportunity.

8 (a) Subject to the availability of funds, the Department of
9 Human Services shall operate a Gateways to Opportunity program,
10 a comprehensive professional development system. The goal of
11 Gateways to Opportunity is to support a diverse, stable, and
12 quality workforce for settings serving children and youth,
13 specifically to:

14 (1) enhance the quality of services;

15 (2) increase positive outcomes for children and youth;

16 and

17 (3) advance the availability of coursework and
18 training related to quality services for children and
19 youth.

20 (b) The Department shall award Gateways to Opportunity
21 credentials to early care and education, school-age, and youth
22 development practitioners. The credentials shall validate an
23 individual's qualifications and shall be issued based on a

1 variety of professional achievements in field experience,
2 knowledge and skills, educational attainment, and training
3 accomplishments. The Department shall adopt rules outlining
4 the framework for awarding credentials.

5 (c) The Gateways to Opportunity program shall identify
6 professional knowledge guidelines for practitioners serving
7 children and youth. The professional knowledge guidelines
8 shall define what all adults who work with children and youth
9 need to know, understand, and be able to demonstrate to support
10 children's and youth's development, school readiness, and
11 school success. The Department shall adopt rules to identify
12 content areas, alignment with other professional standards,
13 and competency levels.

14 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Sections
15 10-20.12 and 34-19 as follows:

16 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.12) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.12)

17 Sec. 10-20.12. School year - School age. To establish and
18 keep in operation in each year during a school term of at least
19 the minimum length required by Section 10-19, a sufficient
20 number of free schools for the accommodation of all persons in
21 the district who are 5 years of age or older but under 21 years
22 of age, and to secure for all such persons the right and
23 opportunity to an equal education in such schools; provided
24 that (i) children who will attain the age of 5 years on or

1 before September 1 of the year of the 1990-1991 school term and
2 each school term thereafter may attend school upon the
3 commencement of such term and (ii) based upon an assessment of
4 the child's readiness, children who have attended a non-public
5 preschool and continued their education at that school through
6 kindergarten, were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately
7 certified teacher, and will attain the age of 6 years on or
8 before December 31 of the year of the 2009-2010 school term and
9 each school term thereafter may attend first grade upon
10 commencement of such term. Based upon an assessment of a
11 child's readiness to attend school, a school district may
12 permit a child to attend school prior to the dates contained in
13 this Section. In any school district operating on a full year
14 school basis children who will attain age 5 within 30 days
15 after the commencement of a term may attend school upon the
16 commencement of such term and, based upon an assessment of the
17 child's readiness, children who have attended a non-public
18 preschool and continued their education at that school through
19 kindergarten, were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately
20 certified teacher, and will attain age 6 within 4 months after
21 the commencement of a term may attend first grade upon the
22 commencement of such term. The school district may, by
23 resolution of its board, allow for a full year school plan.

24 (Source: P.A. 87-359.)

25 (105 ILCS 5/34-19) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-19)

1 Sec. 34-19. By-laws, rules and regulations; business
2 transacted at regular meetings; voting; records. The board
3 shall, subject to the limitations in this Article, establish
4 by-laws, rules and regulations, which shall have the force of
5 ordinances, for the proper maintenance of a uniform system of
6 discipline for both employees and pupils, and for the entire
7 management of the schools, and may fix the school age of
8 pupils, the minimum of which in kindergartens shall not be
9 under 4 years, except that, based upon an assessment of the
10 child's readiness, children who have attended a non-public
11 preschool and continued their education at that school through
12 kindergarten, were taught in kindergarten by an appropriately
13 certified teacher, and will attain the age of 6 years on or
14 before December 31 of the year of the 2009-2010 school term and
15 each school term thereafter may attend first grade upon
16 commencement of such term, and in grade schools shall not be
17 under 6 years. It may expel, suspend or, subject to the
18 limitations of all policies established or adopted under
19 Section 14-8.05, otherwise discipline any pupil found guilty of
20 gross disobedience, misconduct or other violation of the
21 by-laws, rules and regulations. The bylaws, rules and
22 regulations of the board shall be enacted, money shall be
23 appropriated or expended, salaries shall be fixed or changed,
24 and textbooks and courses of instruction shall be adopted or
25 changed only at the regular meetings of the board and by a vote
26 of a majority of the full membership of the board; provided

1 that notwithstanding any other provision of this Article or the
2 School Code, neither the board or any local school council may
3 purchase any textbook for use in any public school of the
4 district from any textbook publisher that fails to furnish any
5 computer diskettes as required under Section 28-21. The board
6 shall be further encouraged to provide opportunities for public
7 hearing and testimony before the adoption of bylaws, rules and
8 regulations. Upon all propositions requiring for their
9 adoption at least a majority of all the members of the board
10 the yeas and nays shall be taken and reported. The by-laws,
11 rules and regulations of the board shall not be repealed,
12 amended or added to, except by a vote of 2/3 of the full
13 membership of the board. The board shall keep a record of all
14 its proceedings. Such records and all by-laws, rules and
15 regulations, or parts thereof, may be proved by a copy thereof
16 certified to be such by the secretary of the board, but if they
17 are printed in book or pamphlet form which are purported to be
18 published by authority of the board they need not be otherwise
19 published and the book or pamphlet shall be received as
20 evidence, without further proof, of the records, by-laws, rules
21 and regulations, or any part thereof, as of the dates thereof
22 as shown in such book or pamphlet, in all courts and places
23 where judicial proceedings are had.

24 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Article or in
25 the School Code, the board may delegate to the general
26 superintendent or to the attorney the authorities granted to

1 the board in the School Code, provided such delegation and
2 appropriate oversight procedures are made pursuant to board
3 by-laws, rules and regulations, adopted as herein provided,
4 except that the board may not delegate its authorities and
5 responsibilities regarding (1) budget approval obligations;
6 (2) rule-making functions; (3) desegregation obligations; (4)
7 real estate acquisition, sale or lease in excess of 10 years as
8 provided in Section 34-21; (5) the levy of taxes; or (6) any
9 mandates imposed upon the board by "An Act in relation to
10 school reform in cities over 500,000, amending Acts herein
11 named", approved December 12, 1988 (P.A. 85-1418).
12 (Source: P.A. 88-45; 89-15, eff. 5-30-95.)

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
14 2009.