

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, 2010. 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, 2010. 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 Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (4.5),
10 grantees under the program must enter into a memorandum of
11 understanding with the appropriate local Head Start
12 agency. This memorandum must be entered into no later than
13 3 months after the award of a grantee's grant under the
14 program, except that, in the case of the 2009-2010 program
15 year, the memorandum must be entered into no later than the
16 deadline set by the State Board of Education for
17 applications to participate in the program in fiscal year
18 2011, and must address collaboration between the grantee's
19 program and the local Head Start agency on certain issues,
20 which shall include without limitation the following:

21 (A) educational activities, curricular objectives,
22 and instruction;

23 (B) public information dissemination and access to
24 programs for families contacting programs;

25 (C) service areas;

26 (D) selection priorities for eligible children to

- 1 be served by programs;
- 2 (E) maximizing the impact of federal and State
- 3 funding to benefit young children;
- 4 (F) staff training, including opportunities for
- 5 joint staff training;
- 6 (G) technical assistance;
- 7 (H) communication and parent outreach for smooth
- 8 transitions to kindergarten;
- 9 (I) provision and use of facilities,
- 10 transportation, and other program elements;
- 11 (J) facilitating each program's fulfillment of its
- 12 statutory and regulatory requirements;
- 13 (K) improving local planning and collaboration;
- 14 and
- 15 (L) providing comprehensive services for the
- 16 neediest Illinois children and families.

17 If the appropriate local Head Start agency is unable or

18 unwilling to enter into a memorandum of understanding as

19 required under this paragraph (4.5), the memorandum of

20 understanding requirement shall not apply and the grantee

21 under the program must notify the State Board of Education

22 in writing of the Head Start agency's inability or

23 unwillingness. The State Board of Education shall compile

24 all such written notices and make them available to the

25 public.

26 (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and

1 provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school
2 districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate
3 children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State
4 Board of Education shall require school districts and other
5 eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or
6 guardians of children before any evaluations are
7 conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage
8 local school districts and other eligible entities to
9 evaluate the population of preschool children in their
10 communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to
11 this subsection, where appropriate.

12 (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the
13 General Assembly by November 1, 2010 and every 3 years
14 thereafter on the results and progress of students who were
15 enrolled in preschool educational programs, including an
16 assessment of which programs have been most successful in
17 promoting academic excellence and alleviating academic
18 failure. The State Board of Education shall assess the
19 academic progress of all students who have been enrolled in
20 preschool educational programs.

21 On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which
22 the General Assembly provides funding for new programs
23 under paragraph (4.5) of this Section, the State Board of
24 Education shall report to the General Assembly on what
25 percentage of new funding was provided to programs serving
26 primarily at-risk children, what percentage of new funding

1 was provided to programs serving primarily children with a
2 family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty
3 level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to
4 other programs.

5 (b) (Blank).

6 (Source: P.A. 94-506, eff. 8-8-05; 94-1054, eff. 7-25-06;
7 95-724, eff. 6-30-08.)

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