

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 Sections  
5 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-21.9)

7 Sec. 10-21.9. Criminal history records checks and checks of  
8 the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Child  
9 Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database.

10 (a) Certified and noncertified applicants for employment  
11 with a school district, except school bus driver applicants,  
12 are required as a condition of employment to authorize a  
13 fingerprint-based criminal history records check to determine  
14 if such applicants have been convicted of any of the enumerated  
15 criminal or drug offenses in subsection (c) of this Section or  
16 have been convicted, within 7 years of the application for  
17 employment with the school district, of any other felony under  
18 the laws of this State or of any offense committed or attempted  
19 in any other state or against the laws of the United States  
20 that, if committed or attempted in this State, would have been  
21 punishable as a felony under the laws of this State.  
22 Authorization for the check shall be furnished by the applicant  
23 to the school district, except that if the applicant is a

1 substitute teacher seeking employment in more than one school  
2 district, a teacher seeking concurrent part-time employment  
3 positions with more than one school district (as a reading  
4 specialist, special education teacher or otherwise), or an  
5 educational support personnel employee seeking employment  
6 positions with more than one district, any such district may  
7 require the applicant to furnish authorization for the check to  
8 the regional superintendent of the educational service region  
9 in which are located the school districts in which the  
10 applicant is seeking employment as a substitute or concurrent  
11 part-time teacher or concurrent educational support personnel  
12 employee. Upon receipt of this authorization, the school  
13 district or the appropriate regional superintendent, as the  
14 case may be, shall submit the applicant's name, sex, race, date  
15 of birth, social security number, fingerprint images, and other  
16 identifiers, as prescribed by the Department of State Police,  
17 to the Department. The regional superintendent submitting the  
18 requisite information to the Department of State Police shall  
19 promptly notify the school districts in which the applicant is  
20 seeking employment as a substitute or concurrent part-time  
21 teacher or concurrent educational support personnel employee  
22 that the check of the applicant has been requested. The  
23 Department of State Police and the Federal Bureau of  
24 Investigation shall furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based  
25 criminal history records check, records of convictions, until  
26 expunged, to the president of the school board for the school

1 district that requested the check, or to the regional  
2 superintendent who requested the check. The Department shall  
3 charge the school district or the appropriate regional  
4 superintendent a fee for conducting such check, which fee shall  
5 be deposited in the State Police Services Fund and shall not  
6 exceed the cost of the inquiry; and the applicant shall not be  
7 charged a fee for such check by the school district or by the  
8 regional superintendent, except that those applicants seeking  
9 employment as a substitute teacher with a school district may  
10 be charged a fee not to exceed the cost of the inquiry. Subject  
11 to appropriations for these purposes, the State Superintendent  
12 of Education shall reimburse school districts and regional  
13 superintendents for fees paid to obtain criminal history  
14 records checks under this Section.

15 (a-5) The school district or regional superintendent shall  
16 further perform a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database,  
17 as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law,  
18 for each applicant.

19 (a-6) The school district or regional superintendent shall  
20 further perform a check of the Statewide Child Murderer and  
21 Violent Offender Against Youth Database, as authorized by the  
22 Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community  
23 Notification Law, for each applicant.

24 (b) Any information concerning the record of convictions  
25 obtained by the president of the school board or the regional  
26 superintendent shall be confidential and may only be

1 transmitted to the superintendent of the school district or his  
2 designee, the appropriate regional superintendent if the check  
3 was requested by the school district, the presidents of the  
4 appropriate school boards if the check was requested from the  
5 Department of State Police by the regional superintendent, the  
6 State Superintendent of Education, the State Teacher  
7 Certification Board, any other person necessary to the decision  
8 of hiring the applicant for employment, or for clarification  
9 purposes the Department of State Police or Statewide Sex  
10 Offender Database, or both. A copy of the record of convictions  
11 obtained from the Department of State Police shall be provided  
12 to the applicant for employment. Upon the check of the  
13 Statewide Sex Offender Database, the school district or  
14 regional superintendent shall notify an applicant as to whether  
15 or not the applicant has been identified in the Database as a  
16 sex offender. If a check of an applicant for employment as a  
17 substitute or concurrent part-time teacher or concurrent  
18 educational support personnel employee in more than one school  
19 district was requested by the regional superintendent, and the  
20 Department of State Police upon a check ascertains that the  
21 applicant has not been convicted of any of the enumerated  
22 criminal or drug offenses in subsection (c) or has not been  
23 convicted, within 7 years of the application for employment  
24 with the school district, of any other felony under the laws of  
25 this State or of any offense committed or attempted in any  
26 other state or against the laws of the United States that, if

1 committed or attempted in this State, would have been  
2 punishable as a felony under the laws of this State and so  
3 notifies the regional superintendent and if the regional  
4 superintendent upon a check ascertains that the applicant has  
5 not been identified in the Sex Offender Database as a sex  
6 offender, then the regional superintendent shall issue to the  
7 applicant a certificate evidencing that as of the date  
8 specified by the Department of State Police the applicant has  
9 not been convicted of any of the enumerated criminal or drug  
10 offenses in subsection (c) or has not been convicted, within 7  
11 years of the application for employment with the school  
12 district, of any other felony under the laws of this State or  
13 of any offense committed or attempted in any other state or  
14 against the laws of the United States that, if committed or  
15 attempted in this State, would have been punishable as a felony  
16 under the laws of this State and evidencing that as of the date  
17 that the regional superintendent conducted a check of the  
18 Statewide Sex Offender Database, the applicant has not been  
19 identified in the Database as a sex offender. The school board  
20 of any school district may rely on the certificate issued by  
21 any regional superintendent to that substitute teacher,  
22 concurrent part-time teacher, or concurrent educational  
23 support personnel employee or may initiate its own criminal  
24 history records check of the applicant through the Department  
25 of State Police and its own check of the Statewide Sex Offender  
26 Database as provided in subsection (a). Any person who releases

1 any confidential information concerning any criminal  
2 convictions of an applicant for employment shall be guilty of a  
3 Class A misdemeanor, unless the release of such information is  
4 authorized by this Section.

5 (c) No school board shall knowingly employ a person who has  
6 been convicted of any offense that would subject him or her to  
7 certification suspension or revocation pursuant to Section  
8 21-23a of this Code. Further, no school board shall knowingly  
9 employ a person who has been found to be the perpetrator of  
10 sexual or physical abuse of any minor under 18 years of age  
11 pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the Juvenile Court  
12 Act of 1987.

13 (d) No school board shall knowingly employ a person for  
14 whom a criminal history records check and a Statewide Sex  
15 Offender Database check has not been initiated.

16 (e) Upon receipt of the record of a conviction of or a  
17 finding of child abuse by a holder of any certificate issued  
18 pursuant to Article 21 or Section 34-8.1 or 34-83 of the School  
19 Code, the State Superintendent of Education may initiate  
20 certificate suspension and revocation proceedings as  
21 authorized by law.

22 (e-5) The superintendent of the employing school board  
23 shall, in writing, notify the State Superintendent of Education  
24 and the applicable regional superintendent of schools of any  
25 certificate holder whom he or she has reasonable cause to  
26 believe has committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect

1 with the result of making a child an abused child or a  
2 neglected child, as defined in Section 3 of the Abused and  
3 Neglected Child Reporting Act, and that act resulted in the  
4 certificate holder's dismissal or resignation from the school  
5 district. This notification must be submitted within 30 days  
6 after the dismissal or resignation. The certificate holder must  
7 also be contemporaneously sent a copy of the notice by the  
8 superintendent. All correspondence, documentation, and other  
9 information so received by the regional superintendent of  
10 schools, the State Superintendent of Education, the State Board  
11 of Education, or the State Teacher Certification Board under  
12 this subsection (e-5) is confidential and must not be disclosed  
13 to third parties, except (i) as necessary for the State  
14 Superintendent of Education or his or her designee to  
15 investigate and prosecute pursuant to Article 21 of this Code,  
16 (ii) pursuant to a court order, (iii) for disclosure to the  
17 certificate holder or his or her representative, or (iv) as  
18 otherwise provided in this Article and provided that any such  
19 information admitted into evidence in a hearing is exempt from  
20 this confidentiality and non-disclosure requirement. Except  
21 for an act of willful or wanton misconduct, any superintendent  
22 who provides notification as required in this subsection (e-5)  
23 shall have immunity from any liability, whether civil or  
24 criminal or that otherwise might result by reason of such  
25 action.

26 (f) After January 1, 1990 the provisions of this Section

1 shall apply to all employees of persons or firms holding  
2 contracts with any school district including, but not limited  
3 to, food service workers, school bus drivers and other  
4 transportation employees, who have direct, daily contact with  
5 the pupils of any school in such district. For purposes of  
6 criminal history records checks and checks of the Statewide Sex  
7 Offender Database on employees of persons or firms holding  
8 contracts with more than one school district and assigned to  
9 more than one school district, the regional superintendent of  
10 the educational service region in which the contracting school  
11 districts are located may, at the request of any such school  
12 district, be responsible for receiving the authorization for a  
13 criminal history records check prepared by each such employee  
14 and submitting the same to the Department of State Police and  
15 for conducting a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database  
16 for each employee. Any information concerning the record of  
17 conviction and identification as a sex offender of any such  
18 employee obtained by the regional superintendent shall be  
19 promptly reported to the president of the appropriate school  
20 board or school boards.

21 (g) In order to student teach in the public schools, a  
22 person is required to authorize a fingerprint-based criminal  
23 history records check and checks of the Statewide Sex Offender  
24 Database and Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender  
25 Against Youth Database prior to participating in any field  
26 experiences in the public schools. Authorization for and



1 payment of the costs of the checks must be furnished by the  
2 student teacher. Results of the checks must be furnished to the  
3 higher education institution where the student teacher is  
4 enrolled and the superintendent of the school district where  
5 the student is assigned.

6 (h) Upon request of a school, school district, community  
7 college district, or private school, any information obtained  
8 by a school district pursuant to subsection (f) of this Section  
9 within the last year must be made available to that school,  
10 school district, community college district, or private  
11 school.

12 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07; 96-431, eff. 8-13-09;  
13 96-1452, eff. 8-20-10; 96-1489, eff. 1-1-11; revised 1-4-11.)

14 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.5) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-18.5)

15 Sec. 34-18.5. Criminal history records checks and checks of  
16 the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Child  
17 Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database.

18 (a) Certified and noncertified applicants for employment  
19 with the school district are required as a condition of  
20 employment to authorize a fingerprint-based criminal history  
21 records check to determine if such applicants have been  
22 convicted of any of the enumerated criminal or drug offenses in  
23 subsection (c) of this Section or have been convicted, within 7  
24 years of the application for employment with the school  
25 district, of any other felony under the laws of this State or

1 of any offense committed or attempted in any other state or  
2 against the laws of the United States that, if committed or  
3 attempted in this State, would have been punishable as a felony  
4 under the laws of this State. Authorization for the check shall  
5 be furnished by the applicant to the school district, except  
6 that if the applicant is a substitute teacher seeking  
7 employment in more than one school district, or a teacher  
8 seeking concurrent part-time employment positions with more  
9 than one school district (as a reading specialist, special  
10 education teacher or otherwise), or an educational support  
11 personnel employee seeking employment positions with more than  
12 one district, any such district may require the applicant to  
13 furnish authorization for the check to the regional  
14 superintendent of the educational service region in which are  
15 located the school districts in which the applicant is seeking  
16 employment as a substitute or concurrent part-time teacher or  
17 concurrent educational support personnel employee. Upon  
18 receipt of this authorization, the school district or the  
19 appropriate regional superintendent, as the case may be, shall  
20 submit the applicant's name, sex, race, date of birth, social  
21 security number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as  
22 prescribed by the Department of State Police, to the  
23 Department. The regional superintendent submitting the  
24 requisite information to the Department of State Police shall  
25 promptly notify the school districts in which the applicant is  
26 seeking employment as a substitute or concurrent part-time

1 teacher or concurrent educational support personnel employee  
2 that the check of the applicant has been requested. The  
3 Department of State Police and the Federal Bureau of  
4 Investigation shall furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based  
5 criminal history records check, records of convictions, until  
6 expunged, to the president of the school board for the school  
7 district that requested the check, or to the regional  
8 superintendent who requested the check. The Department shall  
9 charge the school district or the appropriate regional  
10 superintendent a fee for conducting such check, which fee shall  
11 be deposited in the State Police Services Fund and shall not  
12 exceed the cost of the inquiry; and the applicant shall not be  
13 charged a fee for such check by the school district or by the  
14 regional superintendent. Subject to appropriations for these  
15 purposes, the State Superintendent of Education shall  
16 reimburse the school district and regional superintendent for  
17 fees paid to obtain criminal history records checks under this  
18 Section.

19 (a-5) The school district or regional superintendent shall  
20 further perform a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database,  
21 as authorized by the Sex Offender Community Notification Law,  
22 for each applicant.

23 (a-6) The school district or regional superintendent shall  
24 further perform a check of the Statewide Child Murderer and  
25 Violent Offender Against Youth Database, as authorized by the  
26 Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Community

1 Notification Law, for each applicant.

2 (b) Any information concerning the record of convictions  
3 obtained by the president of the board of education or the  
4 regional superintendent shall be confidential and may only be  
5 transmitted to the general superintendent of the school  
6 district or his designee, the appropriate regional  
7 superintendent if the check was requested by the board of  
8 education for the school district, the presidents of the  
9 appropriate board of education or school boards if the check  
10 was requested from the Department of State Police by the  
11 regional superintendent, the State Superintendent of  
12 Education, the State Teacher Certification Board or any other  
13 person necessary to the decision of hiring the applicant for  
14 employment. A copy of the record of convictions obtained from  
15 the Department of State Police shall be provided to the  
16 applicant for employment. Upon the check of the Statewide Sex  
17 Offender Database, the school district or regional  
18 superintendent shall notify an applicant as to whether or not  
19 the applicant has been identified in the Database as a sex  
20 offender. If a check of an applicant for employment as a  
21 substitute or concurrent part-time teacher or concurrent  
22 educational support personnel employee in more than one school  
23 district was requested by the regional superintendent, and the  
24 Department of State Police upon a check ascertains that the  
25 applicant has not been convicted of any of the enumerated  
26 criminal or drug offenses in subsection (c) or has not been

1 convicted, within 7 years of the application for employment  
2 with the school district, of any other felony under the laws of  
3 this State or of any offense committed or attempted in any  
4 other state or against the laws of the United States that, if  
5 committed or attempted in this State, would have been  
6 punishable as a felony under the laws of this State and so  
7 notifies the regional superintendent and if the regional  
8 superintendent upon a check ascertains that the applicant has  
9 not been identified in the Sex Offender Database as a sex  
10 offender, then the regional superintendent shall issue to the  
11 applicant a certificate evidencing that as of the date  
12 specified by the Department of State Police the applicant has  
13 not been convicted of any of the enumerated criminal or drug  
14 offenses in subsection (c) or has not been convicted, within 7  
15 years of the application for employment with the school  
16 district, of any other felony under the laws of this State or  
17 of any offense committed or attempted in any other state or  
18 against the laws of the United States that, if committed or  
19 attempted in this State, would have been punishable as a felony  
20 under the laws of this State and evidencing that as of the date  
21 that the regional superintendent conducted a check of the  
22 Statewide Sex Offender Database, the applicant has not been  
23 identified in the Database as a sex offender. The school board  
24 of any school district may rely on the certificate issued by  
25 any regional superintendent to that substitute teacher,  
26 concurrent part-time teacher, or concurrent educational

1 support personnel employee or may initiate its own criminal  
2 history records check of the applicant through the Department  
3 of State Police and its own check of the Statewide Sex Offender  
4 Database as provided in subsection (a). Any person who releases  
5 any confidential information concerning any criminal  
6 convictions of an applicant for employment shall be guilty of a  
7 Class A misdemeanor, unless the release of such information is  
8 authorized by this Section.

9 (c) The board of education shall not knowingly employ a  
10 person who has been convicted of any offense that would subject  
11 him or her to certification suspension or revocation pursuant  
12 to Section 21-23a of this Code. Further, the board of education  
13 shall not knowingly employ a person who has been found to be  
14 the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of any minor under  
15 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the  
16 Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

17 (d) The board of education shall not knowingly employ a  
18 person for whom a criminal history records check and a  
19 Statewide Sex Offender Database check has not been initiated.

20 (e) Upon receipt of the record of a conviction of or a  
21 finding of child abuse by a holder of any certificate issued  
22 pursuant to Article 21 or Section 34-8.1 or 34-83 of the School  
23 Code, the State Superintendent of Education may initiate  
24 certificate suspension and revocation proceedings as  
25 authorized by law.

26 (e-5) The general superintendent of schools shall, in

1 writing, notify the State Superintendent of Education of any  
2 certificate holder whom he or she has reasonable cause to  
3 believe has committed an intentional act of abuse or neglect  
4 with the result of making a child an abused child or a  
5 neglected child, as defined in Section 3 of the Abused and  
6 Neglected Child Reporting Act, and that act resulted in the  
7 certificate holder's dismissal or resignation from the school  
8 district. This notification must be submitted within 30 days  
9 after the dismissal or resignation. The certificate holder must  
10 also be contemporaneously sent a copy of the notice by the  
11 superintendent. All correspondence, documentation, and other  
12 information so received by the State Superintendent of  
13 Education, the State Board of Education, or the State Teacher  
14 Certification Board under this subsection (e-5) is  
15 confidential and must not be disclosed to third parties, except  
16 (i) as necessary for the State Superintendent of Education or  
17 his or her designee to investigate and prosecute pursuant to  
18 Article 21 of this Code, (ii) pursuant to a court order, (iii)  
19 for disclosure to the certificate holder or his or her  
20 representative, or (iv) as otherwise provided in this Article  
21 and provided that any such information admitted into evidence  
22 in a hearing is exempt from this confidentiality and  
23 non-disclosure requirement. Except for an act of willful or  
24 wanton misconduct, any superintendent who provides  
25 notification as required in this subsection (e-5) shall have  
26 immunity from any liability, whether civil or criminal or that

1 otherwise might result by reason of such action.

2 (f) After March 19, 1990, the provisions of this Section  
3 shall apply to all employees of persons or firms holding  
4 contracts with any school district including, but not limited  
5 to, food service workers, school bus drivers and other  
6 transportation employees, who have direct, daily contact with  
7 the pupils of any school in such district. For purposes of  
8 criminal history records checks and checks of the Statewide Sex  
9 Offender Database on employees of persons or firms holding  
10 contracts with more than one school district and assigned to  
11 more than one school district, the regional superintendent of  
12 the educational service region in which the contracting school  
13 districts are located may, at the request of any such school  
14 district, be responsible for receiving the authorization for a  
15 criminal history records check prepared by each such employee  
16 and submitting the same to the Department of State Police and  
17 for conducting a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database  
18 for each employee. Any information concerning the record of  
19 conviction and identification as a sex offender of any such  
20 employee obtained by the regional superintendent shall be  
21 promptly reported to the president of the appropriate school  
22 board or school boards.

23 (g) In order to student teach in the public schools, a  
24 person is required to authorize a fingerprint-based criminal  
25 history records check and checks of the Statewide Sex Offender  
26 Database and Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender



1 Against Youth Database prior to participating in any field  
2 experiences in the public schools. Authorization for and  
3 payment of the costs of the checks must be furnished by the  
4 student teacher. Results of the checks must be furnished to the  
5 higher education institution where the student teacher is  
6 enrolled and the general superintendent of schools.

7 (h) Upon request of a school, school district, community  
8 college district, or private school, any information obtained  
9 by the school district pursuant to subsection (f) of this  
10 Section within the last year must be made available to that  
11 school, school district, community college district, or  
12 private school.

13 (Source: P.A. 95-331, eff. 8-21-07; 96-431, eff. 8-13-09;  
14 96-1452, eff. 8-20-10.)