

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 26-2a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-2a) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-2a)

7 Sec. 26-2a. A "truant" is defined as a child subject to  
8 compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid  
9 cause from such attendance for a school day or portion thereof.

10 "Valid cause" for absence shall be illness, observance of a  
11 religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family  
12 emergency, and shall include such other situations beyond the  
13 control of the student as determined by the board of education  
14 in each district, or such other circumstances which cause  
15 reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of  
16 the student.

17 "Chronic or habitual truant" shall be defined as a child  
18 who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is  
19 absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5% ~~10%~~ or  
20 more of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

21 "Truant minor" is defined as a chronic truant to whom  
22 supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic,  
23 intervention and remedial services, alternative programs and

1 other school and community resources have been provided and  
2 have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy, or  
3 have been offered and refused.

4 A "dropout" is defined as any child enrolled in grades 9  
5 through 12 whose name has been removed from the district  
6 enrollment roster for any reason other than the student's  
7 death, extended illness, removal for medical non-compliance,  
8 expulsion, aging out, graduation, or completion of a program of  
9 studies and who has not transferred to another public or  
10 private school and is not known to be home-schooled by his or  
11 her parents or guardians or continuing school in another  
12 country.

13 "Religion" for the purposes of this Article, includes all  
14 aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as  
15 belief.

16 (Source: P.A. 96-1423, eff. 8-3-10.)

17 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
18 becoming law.