



97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2011 and 2012

HB3492

Introduced 2/24/2011, by Rep. Michael Unes - Darlene J. Senger
- Kay Hatcher - Richard Morthland

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

See Index

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to select and enter into a 5-year agreement with a private organization to operate and administer a board examination system that has been approved by an interstate compact on board examination systems and that includes (1) a coherent group of courses that collectively constitutes a core curriculum at the high school level; (2) a comprehensive syllabus for each course; (3) appropriate instructional and teaching materials for each course; (4) high quality examinations that are closely aligned with the course syllabus; (5) professional scoring of examinations; and (6) teacher education that is designed to train teachers to properly teach those courses. Sets forth the duties of the private organization and the State Board. Requires the private organization to develop the Prairie State diploma. Allows school districts and charter schools to choose to offer a Prairie State diploma beginning in the 2013-2014 school year; allows the Prairie State diploma to be awarded at the end of grade 10 or during or at the end of grade 11 or 12; and requires students who elect to pursue a Prairie State diploma to participate in the board examination system. Makes related changes in Sections concerning recognition standards, State assessments, school board powers, and required high school courses.

LRB097 06228 NHT 46303 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

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 2-3.25a, 2-3.64, and 27-22 and by adding Sections 10-20.53 and
6 34-18.45 and Article 27B as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25a)

8 Sec. 2-3.25a. "School district" defined; additional
9 standards.

10 (a) For the purposes of this Section and Sections 3.25b,
11 3.25c, 3.25d, 3.25e, and 3.25f of this Code, "school district"
12 includes other public entities responsible for administering
13 public schools, such as cooperatives, joint agreements,
14 charter schools, special charter districts, regional offices
15 of education, local agencies, and the Department of Human
16 Services.

17 (b) In addition to the standards established pursuant to
18 Section 2-3.25, the State Board of Education shall develop
19 recognition standards for student performance and school
20 improvement in all public schools operated by school districts.
21 The indicators to determine adequate yearly progress shall be
22 limited to the State assessment of student performance in
23 reading and mathematics, student attendance rates at the

1 elementary school level, graduation rates at the high school
2 level, and participation rates on student assessments. The
3 standards shall be designed to permit the measurement of
4 student performance and school improvement by schools and
5 school districts compared to student performance and school
6 improvement for the preceding academic years. The State Board
7 of Education shall determine appropriate modifications to the
8 standards for schools that participate in the board examination
9 system prescribed in Article 27B of this Code.

10 (Source: P.A. 96-734, eff. 8-25-09.)

11 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.64)

12 Sec. 2-3.64. State goals and assessment.

13 (a) Beginning in the 1998-1999 school year, the State Board
14 of Education shall establish standards and periodically, in
15 collaboration with local school districts, conduct studies of
16 student performance in the learning areas of fine arts and
17 physical development/health.

18 Beginning with the 1998-1999 school year until the
19 2004-2005 school year, the State Board of Education shall
20 annually test: (i) all pupils enrolled in the 3rd, 5th, and 8th
21 grades in English language arts (reading, writing, and English
22 grammar) and mathematics; and (ii) all pupils enrolled in the
23 4th and 7th grades in the biological and physical sciences and
24 the social sciences (history, geography, civics, economics,
25 and government). Unless the testing required to be implemented

1 no later than the 2005-2006 school year under this subsection
2 (a) is implemented for the 2004-2005 school year, for the
3 2004-2005 school year, the State Board of Education shall test:
4 (i) all pupils enrolled in the 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades in
5 English language arts (reading and English grammar) and
6 mathematics and (ii) all pupils enrolled in the 4th and 7th
7 grades in the biological and physical sciences. The maximum
8 time allowed for all actual testing required under this
9 paragraph shall not exceed 25 hours, as allocated among the
10 required tests by the State Board of Education, across all
11 grades tested.

12 Beginning no later than the 2005-2006 school year, the
13 State Board of Education shall annually test: (i) all pupils
14 enrolled in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grades in
15 reading and mathematics and (ii) all pupils enrolled in the 4th
16 and 7th grades in the biological and physical sciences. In
17 addition, the State Board of Education shall test (1) all
18 pupils enrolled in the 5th and 8th grades in writing during the
19 2006-2007 school year; (2) all pupils enrolled in the 5th, 6th,
20 and 8th grades in writing during the 2007-2008 school year; and
21 (3) all pupils enrolled in the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 8th grades in
22 writing during the 2008-2009 school year and each school year
23 thereafter. After the addition of grades and change in subjects
24 as delineated in this paragraph and including whatever other
25 tests that may be approved from time to time no later than the
26 2005-2006 school year, the maximum time allowed for all State

1 testing in grades 3 through 8 shall not exceed 38 hours across
2 those grades.

3 Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, the State Board
4 of Education shall not test pupils under this subsection (a) in
5 physical development and health, fine arts, and the social
6 sciences (history, geography, civics, economics, and
7 government). The State Board of Education shall not test pupils
8 under this subsection (a) in writing during the 2005-2006
9 school year.

10 The State Board of Education shall establish the academic
11 standards that are to be applicable to pupils who are subject
12 to State tests under this Section beginning with the 1998-1999
13 school year. However, the State Board of Education shall not
14 establish any such standards in final form without first
15 providing opportunities for public participation and local
16 input in the development of the final academic standards. Those
17 opportunities shall include a well-publicized period of public
18 comment, public hearings throughout the State, and
19 opportunities to file written comments. Beginning with the
20 1998-99 school year and thereafter, the State tests will
21 identify pupils in the 3rd grade or 5th grade who do not meet
22 the State standards.

23 If, by performance on the State tests or local assessments
24 or by teacher judgment, a student's performance is determined
25 to be 2 or more grades below current placement, the student
26 shall be provided a remediation program developed by the

1 district in consultation with a parent or guardian. Such
2 remediation programs may include, but shall not be limited to,
3 increased or concentrated instructional time, a remedial
4 summer school program of not less than 90 hours, improved
5 instructional approaches, tutorial sessions, retention in
6 grade, and modifications to instructional materials. Each
7 pupil for whom a remediation program is developed under this
8 subsection shall be required to enroll in and attend whatever
9 program the district determines is appropriate for the pupil.
10 Districts may combine students in remediation programs where
11 appropriate and may cooperate with other districts in the
12 design and delivery of those programs. The parent or guardian
13 of a student required to attend a remediation program under
14 this Section shall be given written notice of that requirement
15 by the school district a reasonable time prior to commencement
16 of the remediation program that the student is to attend. The
17 State shall be responsible for providing school districts with
18 the new and additional funding, under Section 2-3.51.5 or by
19 other or additional means, that is required to enable the
20 districts to operate remediation programs for the pupils who
21 are required to enroll in and attend those programs under this
22 Section. Every individualized educational program as described
23 in Article 14 shall identify if the State test or components
24 thereof are appropriate for that student. The State Board of
25 Education shall develop rules and regulations governing the
26 administration of alternative tests prescribed within each

1 student's individualized educational program which are
2 appropriate to the disability of each student.

3 All pupils who are in a State approved transitional
4 bilingual education program or transitional program of
5 instruction shall participate in the State tests. The time
6 allotted to take the State tests, however, may be extended as
7 determined by the State Board of Education by rule. Any student
8 who has been enrolled in a State approved bilingual education
9 program less than 3 cumulative academic years may take an
10 accommodated Limited English Proficient student academic
11 content assessment, as determined by the State Board of
12 Education, if the student's lack of English as determined by an
13 English language proficiency test would keep the student from
14 understanding the regular State test. If the school district
15 determines, on a case-by-case individual basis, that a Limited
16 English Proficient student academic content assessment would
17 likely yield more accurate and reliable information on what the
18 student knows and can do, the school district may make a
19 determination to assess the student using a Limited English
20 Proficient student academic content assessment for a period
21 that does not exceed 2 additional consecutive years, provided
22 that the student has not yet reached a level of English
23 language proficiency sufficient to yield valid and reliable
24 information on what the student knows and can do on the regular
25 State test.

26 Reasonable accommodations as prescribed by the State Board

1 of Education shall be provided for individual students in the
2 testing procedure. All test procedures prescribed by the State
3 Board of Education shall require: (i) that each test used for
4 State and local student testing under this Section identify by
5 name the pupil taking the test; (ii) that the name of the pupil
6 taking the test be placed on the test at the time the test is
7 taken; (iii) that the results or scores of each test taken
8 under this Section by a pupil of the school district be
9 reported to that district and identify by name the pupil who
10 received the reported results or scores; and (iv) that the
11 results or scores of each test taken under this Section be made
12 available to the parents of the pupil. In addition, in each
13 school year the scores attained by a student on the Prairie
14 State Achievement Examination administered under subsection
15 (c) of this Section and any Prairie State Achievement Awards
16 received by the student shall become part of the student's
17 permanent record and shall be entered on the student's
18 transcript pursuant to regulations that the State Board of
19 Education shall promulgate for that purpose in accordance with
20 Section 3 and subsection (e) of Section 2 of the Illinois
21 School Student Records Act. Beginning with the 1998-1999 school
22 year and in every school year thereafter, scores received by
23 students on the State assessment tests administered in grades 3
24 through 8 shall be placed into students' temporary records.

25 The State Board of Education shall establish a period of
26 time, to be referred to as the State test window, in each

1 school year for which State testing shall occur to meet the
2 objectives of this Section. However, if the schools of a
3 district are closed and classes are not scheduled during any
4 week that is established by the State Board of Education as the
5 State test window, the school district may (at the discretion
6 of the State Board of Education) move its State test window one
7 week earlier or one week later than the established State test
8 window, so long as the school district gives the State Board of
9 Education written notice of its intention to deviate from the
10 established schedule by December 1 of the school year in which
11 falls the State test window established by the State Board of
12 Education for the testing.

13 (a-5) All tests administered pursuant to this Section shall
14 be academically based. For the purposes of this Section
15 "academically based tests" shall mean tests consisting of
16 questions and answers that are measurable and quantifiable to
17 measure the knowledge, skill, and ability of students in the
18 subject matters covered by tests. The scoring of academically
19 based tests shall be reliable, valid, unbiased and shall meet
20 the guidelines for test development and use prescribed by the
21 American Psychological Association, the National Council of
22 Measurement and Evaluation, and the American Educational
23 Research Association. Academically based tests shall not
24 include assessments or evaluations of attitudes, values, or
25 beliefs, or testing of personality, self-esteem, or
26 self-concept. Nothing in this amendatory Act is intended, nor

1 shall it be construed, to nullify, supersede, or contradict the
2 legislative intent on academic testing expressed during the
3 passage of HB 1005/P.A. 90-296. Nothing in this Section is
4 intended, nor shall it be construed, to nullify, supersede, or
5 contradict the legislative intent on academic testing
6 expressed in the preamble of this amendatory Act of the 93rd
7 General Assembly.

8 The State Board of Education shall monitor the use of short
9 answer questions in the math and reading assessments or in
10 other assessments in order to demonstrate that the use of short
11 answer questions results in a statistically significant
12 improvement in student achievement as measured on the State
13 assessments for math and reading or on other State assessments
14 and is justifiable in terms of cost and student performance.

15 (b) It shall be the policy of the State to encourage school
16 districts to continuously test pupil proficiency in the
17 fundamental learning areas in order to: (i) provide timely
18 information on individual students' performance relative to
19 State standards that is adequate to guide instructional
20 strategies; (ii) improve future instruction; and (iii)
21 complement the information provided by the State testing system
22 described in this Section. To assist school districts in
23 testing pupil proficiency in reading in the primary grades, the
24 State Board shall make optional reading inventories for
25 diagnostic purposes available to each school district that
26 requests such assistance. Districts that administer the

1 reading inventories may develop remediation programs for
2 students who perform in the bottom half of the student
3 population. Those remediation programs may be funded by moneys
4 provided under the School Safety and Educational Improvement
5 Block Grant Program established under Section 2-3.51.5.

6 (c) Beginning with the 2000-2001 school year, each school
7 district that operates a high school program for students in
8 grades 9 through 12 shall annually administer the Prairie State
9 Achievement Examination established under this subsection to
10 its students as set forth below. The Prairie State Achievement
11 Examination shall be developed by the State Board of Education
12 to measure student performance in the academic areas of
13 reading, writing, mathematics, science, and social sciences.
14 Beginning with the 2004-2005 school year, however, the State
15 Board of Education shall not test a student in the social
16 sciences (history, geography, civics, economics, and
17 government) as part of the Prairie State Achievement
18 Examination unless the student is retaking the Prairie State
19 Achievement Examination in the fall of 2004. In addition, the
20 State Board of Education shall not test a student in writing as
21 part of the Prairie State Achievement Examination during the
22 2005-2006 school year. The State Board of Education shall
23 establish the academic standards that are to apply in measuring
24 student performance on the Prairie State Achievement
25 Examination including the minimum examination score in each
26 area that will qualify a student to receive a Prairie State

1 Achievement Award from the State in recognition of the
2 student's excellent performance. Each school district that is
3 subject to the requirements of this subsection (c) shall afford
4 all students one opportunity to take the Prairie State
5 Achievement Examination beginning as late as practical during
6 the spring semester of grade 11, but in no event before March
7 1. The State Board of Education shall annually notify districts
8 of the weeks during which this test administration shall be
9 required to occur. Every individualized educational program as
10 described in Article 14 shall identify if the Prairie State
11 Achievement Examination or components thereof are appropriate
12 for that student. Each student, exclusive of a student whose
13 individualized educational program developed under Article 14
14 identifies the Prairie State Achievement Examination as
15 inappropriate for the student, shall be required to take the
16 examination in grade 11. For each academic area the State Board
17 of Education shall establish the score that qualifies for the
18 Prairie State Achievement Award on that portion of the
19 examination. Districts shall inform their students of the
20 timelines and procedures applicable to their participation in
21 every yearly administration of the Prairie State Achievement
22 Examination. Students receiving special education services
23 whose individualized educational programs identify the Prairie
24 State Achievement Examination as inappropriate for them
25 nevertheless shall have the option of taking the examination,
26 which shall be administered to those students in accordance

1 with standards adopted by the State Board of Education to
2 accommodate the respective disabilities of those students. A
3 student who successfully completes all other applicable high
4 school graduation requirements but fails to receive a score on
5 the Prairie State Achievement Examination that qualifies the
6 student for receipt of a Prairie State Achievement Award shall
7 nevertheless qualify for the receipt of a regular high school
8 diploma. In no case, however, shall a student receive a regular
9 high school diploma without taking the Prairie State
10 Achievement Examination, unless the student is exempted from
11 taking the Prairie State Achievement Examination under this
12 subsection (c) because (i) the student's individualized
13 educational program developed under Article 14 of this Code
14 identifies the Prairie State Achievement Examination as
15 inappropriate for the student, (ii) the student is exempt due
16 to the student's lack of English language proficiency under
17 subsection (a) of this Section, (iii) the student is enrolled
18 in a program of Adult and Continuing Education as defined in
19 the Adult Education Act, (iv) the school district is not
20 required to test the individual student for purposes of
21 accountability under federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
22 requirements, or (v) the student is otherwise identified by the
23 State Board of Education through rules as being exempt from the
24 assessment.

25 For the purpose of receiving a Prairie State Achievement
26 Award, a score as determined by the State Board of Education on

1 a board examination prescribed in Article 27B of this Code may
2 be substituted for scores on the Prairie State Achievement
3 Examination if a pupil who is in grade 12 has previously taken
4 the board examination and has not achieved the minimum score
5 required to earn a Prairie State diploma.

6 (d) Beginning with the 2002-2003 school year, all schools
7 in this State that are part of the sample drawn by the National
8 Center for Education Statistics, in collaboration with their
9 school districts and the State Board of Education, shall
10 administer the biennial State academic assessments of 4th and
11 8th grade reading and mathematics under the National Assessment
12 of Educational Progress carried out under Section 411(b) (2) of
13 the National Education Statistics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9010)
14 if the Secretary of Education pays the costs of administering
15 the assessments.

16 (e) Beginning no later than the 2005-2006 school year,
17 subject to available federal funds to this State for the
18 purpose of student assessment, the State Board of Education
19 shall provide additional tests and assessment resources that
20 may be used by school districts for local diagnostic purposes.
21 These tests and resources shall include without limitation
22 additional high school writing, physical development and
23 health, and fine arts assessments. The State Board of Education
24 shall annually distribute a listing of these additional tests
25 and resources, using funds available from appropriations made
26 for student assessment purposes.

1 (f) For the assessment and accountability purposes of this
2 Section, "all pupils" includes those pupils enrolled in a
3 public or State-operated elementary school, secondary school,
4 or cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or
5 board of control, a charter school operating in compliance with
6 the Charter Schools Law, a school operated by a regional office
7 of education under Section 13A-3 of this Code, or a public
8 school administered by a local public agency or the Department
9 of Human Services.

10 (Source: P.A. 96-430, eff. 8-13-09; 96-1000, eff. 7-2-10.)

11 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53 new)

12 Sec. 10-20.53. Board examination system. A school board may
13 contract with the private organization that is approved by the
14 State Board of Education pursuant to Section 27B-15 of this
15 Code to provide approved board examination systems for the
16 schools in the school district.

17 If a school district decides not to participate in the
18 board examination system prescribed in Article 27B of this
19 Code, pupils enrolled in that school district may earn a
20 Prairie State diploma by obtaining a passing score on the same
21 board examinations.

22 (105 ILCS 5/27-22) (from Ch. 122, par. 27-22)

23 Sec. 27-22. Required high school courses.

24 (a) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,

1 each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 1984-1985 school year
2 through the 2004-2005 school year must, in addition to other
3 course requirements, successfully complete the following
4 courses:

5 (1) three years of language arts;

6 (2) two years of mathematics, one of which may be
7 related to computer technology;

8 (3) one year of science;

9 (4) two years of social studies, of which at least one
10 year must be history of the United States or a combination
11 of history of the United States and American government;
12 and

13 (5) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
14 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American
15 Sign Language or (D) vocational education.

16 (b) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
17 each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 2005-2006 school year
18 must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully
19 complete all of the following courses:

20 (1) Three years of language arts.

21 (2) Three years of mathematics.

22 (3) One year of science.

23 (4) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
24 year must be history of the United States or a combination
25 of history of the United States and American government.

26 (5) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)

1 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American
2 Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

3 (c) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
4 each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 2006-2007 school year
5 must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully
6 complete all of the following courses:

7 (1) Three years of language arts.

8 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
9 which must be English and the other of which may be English
10 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
11 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
12 graduation requirements.

13 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
14 Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content.

15 (4) One year of science.

16 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
17 year must be history of the United States or a combination
18 of history of the United States and American government.

19 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
20 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American
21 Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

22 (d) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
23 each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 2007-2008 school year
24 must, in addition to other course requirements, successfully
25 complete all of the following courses:

26 (1) Three years of language arts.

1 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
2 which must be English and the other of which may be English
3 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
4 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
5 graduation requirements.

6 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be
7 Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content.

8 (4) Two years of science.

9 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
10 year must be history of the United States or a combination
11 of history of the United States and American government.

12 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
13 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American
14 Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

15 (e) As a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma,
16 each pupil entering the 9th grade in the 2008-2009 school year
17 or a subsequent school year must, in addition to other course
18 requirements, successfully complete all of the following
19 courses:

20 (1) Four years of language arts.

21 (2) Two years of writing intensive courses, one of
22 which must be English and the other of which may be English
23 or any other subject. When applicable, writing-intensive
24 courses may be counted towards the fulfillment of other
25 graduation requirements.

26 (3) Three years of mathematics, one of which must be

1 Algebra I and one of which must include geometry content.

2 (4) Two years of science.

3 (5) Two years of social studies, of which at least one
4 year must be history of the United States or a combination
5 of history of the United States and American government.

6 (6) One year chosen from (A) music, (B) art, (C)
7 foreign language, which shall be deemed to include American
8 Sign Language, or (D) vocational education.

9 (f) The State Board of Education shall develop and inform
10 school districts of standards for writing-intensive
11 coursework.

12 (g) This amendatory Act of 1983 does not apply to pupils
13 entering the 9th grade in 1983-1984 school year and prior
14 school years or to students with disabilities whose course of
15 study is determined by an individualized education program.

16 This amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly does not
17 apply to pupils entering the 9th grade in the 2004-2005 school
18 year or a prior school year or to students with disabilities
19 whose course of study is determined by an individualized
20 education program.

21 (h) The provisions of this Section are subject to the
22 provisions of Section 27-22.05.

23 (i) Pupils who earn a Prairie State diploma pursuant to
24 Article 27B of this Code are exempt from the requirements
25 prescribed in this Section. Pupils who earn a Prairie State
26 diploma are entitled to all of the rights and privileges of

1 persons who graduate with a high school diploma issued pursuant
2 to this Section, including access to postsecondary
3 scholarships and other forms of student financial aid and
4 access to all forms of postsecondary education.
5 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a pupil who
6 earns a Prairie State diploma may elect to remain in high
7 school through grade 12. A pupil who earns a Prairie State
8 diploma and who elects not to pursue one of the options
9 prescribed in Section 27B-20 of this Code may only be
10 readmitted to that high school or another high school in this
11 State pursuant to policies adopted by the school district of
12 readmission.

13 (Source: P.A. 94-676, eff. 8-24-05.)

14 (105 ILCS 5/Art. 27B heading new)

15 ARTICLE 27B. BOARD EXAMINATION SYSTEM

16 (105 ILCS 5/27B-5 new)

17 Sec. 27B-5. Declaration of purpose and policy. The
18 legislature declares and finds all of the following:

19 (1) It is in the interest of this State to greatly
20 increase the proportion of students who enter high school
21 and who subsequently leave those high schools with the
22 skills needed to compete effectively in a global economy
23 that provides world class wages only to workers with world
24 class skills.

1 (2) It is in the interest of students in this State,
2 their families, and schools to provide a college and work
3 readiness assessment to students.

4 (3) The purpose of this Article is to greatly increase
5 the proportion of students in this State who leave high
6 school with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in
7 college in a way that does not significantly increase the
8 cost of high school.

9 (105 ILCS 5/27B-10 new)

10 Sec. 27B-10. Definitions. In this Article, unless the
11 context otherwise requires:

12 "Approved board examination system" means a board
13 examination system that has been approved by an interstate
14 compact on board examination systems.

15 "Board examination system" means a complete instructional
16 system that includes all of the following components:

17 (1) A coherent group of courses that collectively
18 constitutes a core curriculum at the high school level.

19 (2) A comprehensive syllabus for each course.

20 (3) Appropriate instructional and teaching materials
21 for each course.

22 (4) High quality examinations that are closely aligned
23 with the course syllabus.

24 (5) Professional scoring of examinations.

25 (6) Teacher education that is designed to train

1 teachers to properly teach those courses.

2 "Prairie State diploma" means a high school diploma that is
3 offered to any student who demonstrates readiness for college
4 level mathematics and English according to standards
5 prescribed by an interstate compact on board examination
6 systems, who has passing grades on an additional set of
7 required approved board examinations in core academic courses
8 as determined by the State Board of Education, including the
9 arts, history, and science, and who successfully completes a
10 course in economics.

11 "Readiness for college level mathematics and English"
12 means that a student has the English and mathematics skills and
13 knowledge needed to succeed in college level courses that count
14 toward a degree or certificate without taking remedial or
15 developmental coursework.

16 (105 ILCS 5/27B-15 new)

17 Sec. 27B-15. Board examination system; private contractor;
18 duties.

19 (a) The State Board of Education shall select and enter
20 into a 5-year agreement with a private organization to operate
21 and administer the board examination system prescribed in this
22 Article.

23 (b) The private organization selected by the State Board of
24 Education shall do all of the following:

25 (1) Identify, select, and contract with a national

1 organization that is devoted to issues concerning
2 education and the economy and that is selected by the State
3 Board of Education to provide technical services to develop
4 and maintain an interstate system of approved board
5 examination systems.

6 (2) Provide data and other information to a national
7 organization that is devoted to issues concerning
8 education and the economy and that is selected by the State
9 Board of Education to provide technical services the
10 national organization deems necessary to set appropriate
11 performance standards for the students in this State. The
12 State Board of Education shall provide data and other
13 information to the private organization.

14 (3) Conduct technical studies required by the State
15 Board of Education to compare the scores on approved board
16 examinations by the students in this State to scores on the
17 Prairie State Achievement Examination and other measures
18 deemed necessary to ensure the efficacy of the approved
19 board examinations. The private organization may contract
20 with other entities that are selected by the State Board of
21 Education for the purpose of conducting technical studies.

22 (4) In cooperation with the State Superintendent of
23 Education and the State Board of Education, solicit moneys
24 from all lawful private and public sources, including
25 federal moneys, to offset the costs of instruction provided
26 to students under this Article.

1 (5) Exercise general supervision over the
2 implementation of the approved board examination systems
3 in this State for the duration of the 5-year contract.
4 These examination systems shall meet the following
5 criteria:

6 (A) Appear on a list of approved board examination
7 systems selected by the interstate compact.

8 (B) Be periodically modified to reflect core
9 standards selected by an interstate compact on board
10 examination systems.

11 (C) Have common passing scores that are prescribed
12 by an interstate compact on board examination systems
13 and that are set to the level of literacy required to
14 succeed in college level courses offered by public
15 community colleges in this State that count toward a
16 degree or certificate without taking remedial or
17 developmental coursework. The private organization, on
18 approval of the State Board of Education and with input
19 from representatives from school districts, charter
20 schools, public community colleges, and universities
21 in this State, shall designate 2 individuals to
22 represent this State in an interstate compact on board
23 examination systems to prescribe the common passing
24 scores prescribed in this item (C).

25 (6) Prepare an annual report for the State Board of
26 Education, which shall be forwarded to the General Assembly

1 and the Governor, on the progress made toward the goals
2 established in this Article and provide copies to the
3 Secretary of State. Participating schools and the State
4 Board of Education shall provide data to the private
5 organization as needed in order to complete the annual
6 report.

7 (7) Identify, select, and represent this State on the
8 national governing body of an interstate compact on board
9 examination systems, as approved by the State Board of
10 Education, to enable states to collaborate in the following
11 areas:

12 (A) The selection of board examination systems for
13 use in those states.

14 (B) Providing technical assistance required to
15 implement the board examination systems effectively in
16 those states for the use of those examinations.

17 (C) Entering into contracts with board examination
18 system providers or with a national organization that
19 is devoted to issues concerning education and the
20 economy to develop new or improved board examination
21 systems.

22 (8) Select this State's representatives in an
23 interstate compact on board examination systems in
24 accordance with policies prescribed by that interstate
25 compact.

26 (c) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to carry

1 out the purposes of this Section and shall select college and
2 career readiness examinations that are available to pupils in
3 grade 8, including those pupils who intend to participate in
4 the board examinations system in high school. The examinations
5 shall be selected to provide data to pupils, their families,
6 and schools regarding the pupil's level of preparation for
7 entry into a college and career readiness pathway in high
8 school.

9 (d) Pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of
10 Education, the State Board of Education shall develop a system
11 to track the academic progress of pupils who participate in the
12 board examination system.

13 (105 ILCS 5/27B-20 new)

14 Sec. 27B-20. Prairie State diploma.

15 (a) The private organization selected pursuant to Section
16 27B-15 of this Code shall develop the Prairie State diploma, to
17 be approved and adopted by the State Board of Education. School
18 districts and charter schools in this State may choose to offer
19 a Prairie State diploma beginning in the 2013-2014 school year.
20 A high school student who is enrolled in a school district or
21 charter school that offers a Prairie State diploma may choose
22 to pursue a Prairie State diploma.

23 (b) The Prairie State diploma may be awarded at the end of
24 grade 10 or during or at the end of grade 11 or 12 to students
25 who meet the criteria. Students who elect to pursue a Prairie

1 State diploma shall participate in a board examination system
2 that consists of internationally benchmarked instructional
3 programs of study chosen by an interstate compact on board
4 examination systems.

5 (c) Students who earn a Prairie State diploma shall have
6 multiple pathways available to them and may do the following:

7 (1) Enroll the following fall semester in a public
8 community college in this State. Public community colleges
9 in this State shall admit students who obtain a Prairie
10 State diploma and who otherwise meet the qualifications for
11 admission without requiring those students to enroll in
12 remedial courses. The school district or charter school
13 from which the student earned the Prairie State diploma
14 shall include that student in the school district's or
15 charter school's student count and shall continue to
16 receive per pupil funding for a student who earns a Prairie
17 State diploma until that student would otherwise have
18 graduated at the end of grade 12, as long as that student
19 is enrolled in approved postsecondary studies at that
20 school district or charter school. The school district or
21 charter school shall reimburse the community college
22 district for the amount of operating full-time student
23 equivalency moneys that the community college district
24 would be entitled to receive if the student was enrolled as
25 a full-time equivalent student in a community college
26 district. If the student attends community college on a

1 community college campus, the school district or charter
2 school shall reimburse the community college district for
3 the amount of operating and capital outlay full-time
4 student equivalency moneys. For the purposes of this
5 subdivision (1), the amount of operating full-time student
6 equivalency moneys shall be equivalent to the average
7 appropriation per full-time student equivalent for all
8 community college districts. Fifty percent of the
9 remaining balance of the per pupil funding shall be used
10 for teacher and pupil incentives, including scholarship
11 programs, and 50% shall be used for maintenance and
12 operations, including capital. The remaining balance of
13 the per pupil funding for teacher and pupil incentives,
14 including scholarship programs, shall be used to offset the
15 costs of board examinations and to provide customized
16 programs of assistance for students who do not pass the
17 board examinations. A student who earns a Prairie State
18 diploma may enroll in community college courses offered on
19 a public community college campus or a public high school
20 campus or both. Notwithstanding any other law to the
21 contrary, community college districts may not classify a
22 student who remains in high school pursuant to this
23 subdivision (1) as a full-time equivalent student.
24 Students who take courses on high school campuses pursuant
25 to this subdivision (1) are eligible to participate in
26 extracurricular activities, including interscholastic

1 sports, through the end of grade 12.

2 (2) Remain in high school and enroll in additional
3 advanced preparation board examination programs that are
4 designed to prepare those students for admission to high
5 quality, postsecondary institutions that offer
6 baccalaureate degree programs. These board examination
7 programs shall be selected from a list approved by an
8 interstate compact for board examination systems. The
9 school district or charter school from which the student
10 earned the Prairie State diploma shall include that student
11 in the school district's or charter school's student count
12 and shall continue to receive per pupil funding for a
13 student who earns a Prairie State diploma until that
14 student would otherwise have graduated at the end of grade
15 12, as long as that student is enrolled in approved
16 advanced preparation board examination programs at that
17 school district or charter school. Students who elect to
18 remain in high school pursuant to this subdivision (2) are
19 eligible to participate in extracurricular activities,
20 including interscholastic sports, through the end of grade
21 12.

22 (3) Enroll in a full-time career and technical
23 education program offered on a public community college
24 campus or a public high school campus or both. Students who
25 elect to remain in high school pursuant to this subdivision
26 (3) are eligible to participate in extracurricular

1 activities, including interscholastic sports, through the
2 end of grade 12. The school district or charter school from
3 which the student earned the Prairie State diploma shall
4 include that student in the school district's or charter
5 school's student count and shall continue to receive per
6 pupil funding for a student who earns a Prairie State
7 diploma until that student would otherwise have graduated
8 at the end of grade 12, as long as that student is enrolled
9 in an approved full-time career and technical education
10 program.

11 (4) Return to a traditional academic program without
12 completing the next level of board examination systems
13 curriculum.

14 (d) Students who pursue but do not earn a Prairie State
15 diploma at the end of grade 10 or 11 shall receive a customized
16 program of assistance during the next school year that
17 addresses areas in which the student demonstrated deficiencies
18 in the approved board examinations. These students may retake
19 the board examinations at the next available examination
20 administration. Students may choose to return to a traditional
21 academic program without completing the board examination
22 system curriculum.

23 (e) The private organization selected pursuant to Section
24 27B-15 of this Code shall develop detailed requirements for
25 students to earn the Prairie State diploma, as approved and
26 adopted by the State Board of Education, that include at least

1 the following:

2 (1) Demonstrated skills and knowledge in English and
3 mathematical literacy to be successful in college level
4 courses offered by the public community colleges in this
5 State that count toward a degree or certificate without
6 taking remedial or developmental coursework, as determined
7 by an interstate compact on board examination systems.

8 (2) Satisfactory grades on approved board examinations
9 in subjects determined to be necessary to prepare a student
10 to enter public community college without remedial or
11 developmental coursework and that do not include
12 coursework required exclusively for entry into an
13 institution that awards baccalaureate degrees.

14 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.45 new)

15 Sec. 34-18.45. Board examination system. The board may
16 contract with the private organization that is approved by the
17 State Board of Education pursuant to Section 27B-15 of this
18 Code to provide approved board examination systems for the
19 schools in the school district.

20 If the school district decides not to participate in the
21 board examination system prescribed in Article 27B of this
22 Code, pupils enrolled in the school district may earn a Prairie
23 State diploma by obtaining a passing score on the same board
24 examinations.

1 INDEX

2 Statutes amended in order of appearance

3 105 ILCS 5/2-3.25a from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25a

4 105 ILCS 5/2-3.64 from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.64

5 105 ILCS 5/10-20.53 new

6 105 ILCS 5/27-22 from Ch. 122, par. 27-22

7 105 ILCS 5/Art. 27B

8 heading new

9 105 ILCS 5/27B-5 new

10 105 ILCS 5/27B-10 new

11 105 ILCS 5/27B-15 new

12 105 ILCS 5/27B-20 new

13 105 ILCS 5/34-18.45 new