



## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB5945

by Rep. John D. Anthony

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.56 new  
105 ILCS 5/34-18.49 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that the parents of at least 51% of students in a low-performing school may initiate reform measures at the school through the submission of a parent petition to the school board. Provides for submission of a notice of petition. Provides that the petition shall request that the school board fully intervene in the school and implement one of the following reform measures: (1) reopen the school as a charter school; (2) change the school leadership; (3) close the school and reassign students currently attending the school to another school at the appropriate grade level within the same school district; or (4) adopt a new school governance structure. Upon receiving a copy of a petition signed by the parents of at least 51% of the students in a low-performing school, requires the school board to implement the reform measures requested in the petition.

LRB098 14288 NHT 48904 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

STATE MANDATES  
ACT MAY REQUIRE  
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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 adding Sections  
5 10-20.56 and 34-18.49 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.56. Initiation of school reform by parent  
8 petition.

9 (a) In this Section, "low-performing school" means a public  
10 school designated as a low-performing school by the State Board  
11 of Education based on the following criteria:

12 (1) Among all students in that school to whom a State  
13 assessment was administered under Section 2-3.64 of this  
14 Code, the percentage of students scoring in the partially  
15 proficient range in both the language arts and mathematics  
16 subject areas of the State assessments exceeded 40% in each  
17 of the prior 2 school years.

18 (2) Among all students in that school to whom a State  
19 assessment was administered under Section 2-3.64 of this  
20 Code, the percentage of students scoring in the partially  
21 proficient range in either the language arts or mathematics  
22 subject area of the State assessments exceeded 65% in each  
23 of the prior 2 school years.

1 A school shall continue to meet the definition of  
2 "low-performing school" and the State Board of Education shall  
3 continue to designate the school as a low-performing school  
4 until such time as the percentage of students scoring in the  
5 partially proficient range in both the language arts and  
6 mathematics subject areas of the State assessments is less than  
7 or equal to the statewide percentage of students scoring in the  
8 partially proficient range.

9 (b) The parents of at least 51% of students in a  
10 low-performing school may initiate reform measures at the  
11 school under this Section through the submission of a parent  
12 petition to the school board. The petition process shall be as  
13 follows:

14 (1) A parent must submit a notice of petition notifying  
15 the school that a petition is being formed. The State Board  
16 of Education shall create a uniform notice of petition form  
17 and shall make that form available on its Internet website.

18 (2) The petition shall request that the school board  
19 fully intervene in the school and implement one of the  
20 following reform measures:

21 (A) Reopen the school as a charter school.

22 (B) Change the school leadership, including  
23 without limitation replacing the school principal and  
24 any other staff who are relevant to the school's  
25 designation as a low-performing school.

26 (C) Close the school and reassign students

1 currently attending the school to another school at the  
2 appropriate grade level within the same school  
3 district.

4 (D) Adopt a new school governance structure, which  
5 may include without limitation requiring the school to  
6 report to a turnaround office established by the school  
7 board, hiring a turnaround leader who reports directly  
8 to the State Board of Education, and entering into an  
9 agreement with a person, a for-profit or  
10 not-for-profit organization providing educational or  
11 other services, or another school district for  
12 alternative management of the school.

13 (3) After the parents of at least 51% of the students  
14 in the school have signed the petition, the parent who  
15 submitted the notice of petition shall submit copies of the  
16 signed petition to the State Board of Education and the  
17 school board.

18 (c) Upon receiving a copy of a petition signed by the  
19 parents of at least 51% of the students in a low-performing  
20 school as provided under subsection (b) of this Section, the  
21 school board must implement the reform measures requested in  
22 the petition.

23 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.49 new)

24 Sec. 34-18.49. Initiation of school reform by parent  
25 petition.

1       (a) In this Section, "low-performing school" means a public  
2 school designated as a low-performing school by the State Board  
3 of Education based on the following criteria:

4           (1) Among all students in that school to whom a State  
5 assessment was administered under Section 2-3.64 of this  
6 Code, the percentage of students scoring in the partially  
7 proficient range in both the language arts and mathematics  
8 subject areas of the State assessments exceeded 40% in each  
9 of the prior 2 school years.

10          (2) Among all students in that school to whom a State  
11 assessment was administered under Section 2-3.64 of this  
12 Code, the percentage of students scoring in the partially  
13 proficient range in either the language arts or mathematics  
14 subject area of the State assessments exceeded 65% in each  
15 of the prior 2 school years.

16 A school shall continue to meet the definition of  
17 "low-performing school" and the State Board of Education shall  
18 continue to designate the school as a low-performing school  
19 until such time as the percentage of students scoring in the  
20 partially proficient range in both the language arts and  
21 mathematics subject areas of the State assessments is less than  
22 or equal to the statewide percentage of students scoring in the  
23 partially proficient range.

24          (b) The parents of at least 51% of students in a  
25 low-performing school may initiate reform measures at the  
26 school under this Section through the submission of a parent

1 petition to the board. The petition process shall be as  
2 follows:

3 (1) A parent must submit a notice of petition notifying  
4 the school that a petition is being formed. The State Board  
5 of Education shall create a uniform notice of petition form  
6 and shall make that form available on its Internet website.

7 (2) The petition shall request that the board fully  
8 intervene in the school and implement one of the following  
9 reform measures:

10 (A) Reopen the school as a charter school.

11 (B) Change the school leadership, including  
12 without limitation replacing the school principal and  
13 any other staff who are relevant to the school's  
14 designation as a low-performing school.

15 (C) Close the school and reassign students  
16 currently attending the school to another school at the  
17 appropriate grade level within the school district.

18 (D) Adopt a new school governance structure, which  
19 may include without limitation requiring the school to  
20 report to a turnaround office established by the board,  
21 hiring a turnaround leader who reports directly to the  
22 State Board of Education, and entering into an  
23 agreement with a person, a for-profit or  
24 not-for-profit organization providing educational or  
25 other services, or another school district for  
26 alternative management of the school.

1           (3) After the parents of at least 51% of the students  
2           in the school have signed the petition, the parent who  
3           submitted the notice of petition shall submit copies of the  
4           signed petition to the State Board of Education and the  
5           board.

6           (c) Upon receiving a copy of a petition signed by the  
7           parents of at least 51% of the students in a low-performing  
8           school as provided under subsection (b) of this Section, the  
9           board must implement the reform measures requested in the  
10           petition.