

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 24-2 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/24-2) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-2)  
7 Sec. 24-2. Holidays.

8 (a) Teachers shall not be required to teach on Saturdays,  
9 nor, except as provided in subsection (b) of this Section,  
10 shall teachers or other school employees, other than  
11 noncertificated school employees whose presence is necessary  
12 because of an emergency or for the continued operation and  
13 maintenance of school facilities or property, be required to  
14 work on legal school holidays, which are January 1, New Year's  
15 Day; the third Monday in January, the Birthday of Dr. Martin  
16 Luther King, Jr.; February 12, the Birthday of President  
17 Abraham Lincoln; the first Monday in March (to be known as  
18 Casimir Pulaski's birthday); Good Friday; the day designated as  
19 Memorial Day by federal law; July 4, Independence Day; the  
20 first Monday in September, Labor Day; the second Monday in  
21 October, Columbus Day; November 11, Veterans' Day; the Thursday  
22 in November commonly called Thanksgiving Day; and December 25,  
23 Christmas Day. School boards may grant special holidays

1 whenever in their judgment such action is advisable. No  
2 deduction shall be made from the time or compensation of a  
3 school employee on account of any legal or special holiday.

4 (b) A school board or other entity eligible to apply for  
5 waivers and modifications under Section 2-3.25g of this Code is  
6 authorized to hold school or schedule teachers' institutes,  
7 parent-teacher conferences, or staff development on the third  
8 Monday in January (the Birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King,  
9 Jr.); February 12 (the Birthday of President Abraham Lincoln);  
10 the first Monday in March (known as Casimir Pulaski's  
11 birthday); the second Monday in October (Columbus Day); and  
12 November 11 (Veterans' Day), provided that:

13 (1) the person or persons honored by the holiday are  
14 recognized through instructional activities conducted on  
15 that day or, if the day is not used for student attendance,  
16 on the first school day preceding or following that day;  
17 and

18 (2) the entity that chooses to exercise this authority  
19 first holds a public hearing about the proposal. The entity  
20 shall provide notice preceding the public hearing to both  
21 educators and parents. The notice shall set forth the time,  
22 date, and place of the hearing, describe the proposal, and  
23 indicate that the entity will take testimony from educators  
24 and parents about the proposal.

25 (c) Commemorative holidays, which recognize specified  
26 patriotic, civic, cultural or historical persons, activities,

1 or events, are regular school days. Commemorative holidays are:  
2 January 28 (to be known as Christa McAuliffe Day and observed  
3 as a commemoration of space exploration), February 15 (the  
4 birthday of Susan B. Anthony), March 29 (Viet Nam War Veterans'  
5 Day), September 11 (September 11th Day of Remembrance), the  
6 school day immediately preceding Veterans' Day (Korean War  
7 Veterans' Day), October 1 (Recycling Day), October 7 (Iraq and  
8 Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day), December 7 (Pearl  
9 Harbor Veterans' Day), and any day so appointed by the  
10 President or Governor. School boards may establish  
11 commemorative holidays whenever in their judgment such action  
12 is advisable. School boards shall include instruction relative  
13 to commemorated persons, activities, or events on the  
14 commemorative holiday or at any other time during the school  
15 year and at any point in the curriculum when such instruction  
16 may be deemed appropriate. The State Board of Education shall  
17 prepare and make available to school boards instructional  
18 materials relative to commemorated persons, activities, or  
19 events which may be used by school boards in conjunction with  
20 any instruction provided pursuant to this paragraph.

21 (d) City of Chicago School District 299 shall observe March  
22 4 of each year as a commemorative holiday. This holiday shall  
23 be known as Mayors' Day which shall be a day to commemorate and  
24 be reminded of the past Chief Executive Officers of the City of  
25 Chicago, and in particular the late Mayor Richard J. Daley and  
26 the late Mayor Harold Washington. If March 4 falls on a

1 Saturday or Sunday, Mayors' Day shall be observed on the  
2 following Monday.

3 (Source: P.A. 95-699, eff. 11-9-07; 96-640, eff. 8-24-09.)

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
5 becoming law.