

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 2-3.66 and 2-3.66b as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.66)

7 Sec. 2-3.66. Truants' alternative and optional education
8 programs. To establish projects to offer modified
9 instructional programs or other services designed to prevent
10 students from dropping out of school, including programs
11 pursuant to Section 2-3.41, and to serve as a part time or full
12 time option in lieu of regular school attendance and to award
13 grants to local school districts, educational service regions
14 or community college districts from appropriated funds to
15 assist districts in establishing such projects. The education
16 agency may operate its own program or enter into a contract
17 with another not-for-profit entity to implement the program.
18 The projects shall allow dropouts, up to and including age 21
19 or up to and including age 23 if the project is not conducted
20 in the same public school facility as the regular education
21 program, potential dropouts, including truants, uninvolved,
22 unmotivated and disaffected students, as defined by State Board
23 of Education rules and regulations, to enroll, as an

1 alternative to regular school attendance, in an optional
2 education program which may be established by school board
3 policy and is in conformance with rules adopted by the State
4 Board of Education. Truants' Alternative and Optional
5 Education programs funded pursuant to this Section shall be
6 planned by a student, the student's parents or legal guardians,
7 unless the student is 18 years or older, and school officials
8 and shall culminate in an individualized optional education
9 plan. Such plan shall focus on academic or vocational skills,
10 or both, and may include, but not be limited to, evening
11 school, summer school, community college courses, adult
12 education, preparation courses for high school equivalency
13 testing, vocational training, work experience, programs to
14 enhance self concept and parenting courses. School districts
15 which are awarded grants pursuant to this Section shall be
16 authorized to provide day care services to children of students
17 who are eligible and desire to enroll in programs established
18 and funded under this Section, but only if and to the extent
19 that such day care is necessary to enable those eligible
20 students to attend and participate in the programs and courses
21 which are conducted pursuant to this Section. School districts
22 and regional offices of education may claim general State aid
23 under Section 18-8.05 for students enrolled in truants'
24 alternative and optional education programs, provided that
25 such students are receiving services that are supplemental to a
26 program leading to a high school diploma and are otherwise

1 eligible to be claimed for general State aid under Section
2 18-8.05.

3 (Source: P.A. 98-718, eff. 1-1-15.)

4 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66b)

5 Sec. 2-3.66b. IHOPE Program.

6 (a) There is established the Illinois Hope and Opportunity
7 Pathways through Education (IHOPE) Program. The State Board of
8 Education shall implement and administer the IHOPE Program. The
9 goal of the IHOPE Program is to develop a comprehensive system
10 in this State to re-enroll significant numbers of high school
11 dropouts in programs that will enable them to earn their high
12 school diploma.

13 (b) The IHOPE Program shall award grants, subject to
14 appropriation for this purpose, to educational service regions
15 and a school district organized under Article 34 of this Code
16 from appropriated funds to assist in establishing
17 instructional programs and other services designed to
18 re-enroll high school dropouts. From any funds appropriated for
19 the IHOPE Program, the State Board of Education may use up to
20 5% for administrative costs, including the performance of a
21 program evaluation and the hiring of staff to implement and
22 administer the program.

23 The IHOPE Program shall provide incentive grant funds for
24 regional offices of education and a school district organized
25 under Article 34 of this Code to develop partnerships with

1 school districts, public community colleges, and community
2 groups to build comprehensive plans to re-enroll high school
3 dropouts in their regions or districts.

4 Programs funded through the IHOPE Program shall allow high
5 school dropouts, up to and including age 21 or up to and
6 including age 23 if the program is not conducted in the same
7 public school facility as the regular education program,
8 notwithstanding Section 26-2 of this Code, to re-enroll in an
9 educational program in conformance with rules adopted by the
10 State Board of Education. Programs may include without
11 limitation comprehensive year-round programming, evening
12 school, summer school, community college courses, adult
13 education, vocational training, work experience, programs to
14 enhance self-concept, and parenting courses. Any student in the
15 IHOPE Program who wishes to earn a high school diploma must
16 meet the prerequisites to receiving a high school diploma
17 specified in Section 27-22 of this Code and any other
18 graduation requirements of the student's district of
19 residence. Any student who successfully completes the
20 requirements for his or her graduation shall receive a diploma
21 identifying the student as graduating from his or her district
22 of residence.

23 (c) In order to be eligible for funding under the IHOPE
24 Program, an interested regional office of education or a school
25 district organized under Article 34 of this Code shall develop
26 an IHOPE Plan to be approved by the State Board of Education.

1 The State Board of Education shall develop rules for the IHOPE
2 Program that shall set forth the requirements for the
3 development of the IHOPE Plan. Each Plan shall involve school
4 districts, public community colleges, and key community
5 programs that work with high school dropouts located in an
6 educational service region or the City of Chicago before the
7 Plan is sent to the State Board for approval. No funds may be
8 distributed to a regional office of education or a school
9 district organized under Article 34 of this Code until the
10 State Board has approved the Plan.

11 (d) A regional office of education or a school district
12 organized under Article 34 of this Code may operate its own
13 program funded by the IHOPE Program or enter into a contract
14 with other not-for-profit entities, including school
15 districts, public community colleges, and not-for-profit
16 community-based organizations, to operate a program.

17 A regional office of education or a school district
18 organized under Article 34 of this Code that receives an IHOPE
19 grant from the State Board of Education may provide funds under
20 a sub-grant, as specified in the IHOPE Plan, to other
21 not-for-profit entities to provide services according to the
22 IHOPE Plan that was developed. These other entities may include
23 school districts, public community colleges, or not-for-profit
24 community-based organizations or a cooperative partnership
25 among these entities.

26 (e) In order to distribute funding based upon the need to

1 ensure delivery of programs that will have the greatest impact,
2 IHOPE Program funding must be distributed based upon the
3 proportion of dropouts in the educational service region or
4 school district, in the case of a school district organized
5 under Article 34 of this Code, to the total number of dropouts
6 in this State. This formula shall employ the dropout data
7 provided by school districts to the State Board of Education.

8 A regional office of education or a school district
9 organized under Article 34 of this Code may claim State aid
10 under Section 18-8.05 of this Code for students enrolled in a
11 program funded by the IHOPE Program, provided that the State
12 Board of Education has approved the IHOPE Plan and that these
13 students are receiving services that are meeting the
14 requirements of Section 27-22 of this Code for receipt of a
15 high school diploma and are otherwise eligible to be claimed
16 for general State aid under Section 18-8.05 of this Code,
17 including provisions related to the minimum number of days of
18 pupil attendance pursuant to Section 10-19 of this Code and the
19 minimum number of daily hours of school work and any exceptions
20 thereto as defined by the State Board of Education in rules.

21 (f) IHOPE categories of programming may include the
22 following:

23 (1) Full-time programs that are comprehensive,
24 year-round programs.

25 (2) Part-time programs combining work and study
26 scheduled at various times that are flexible to the needs

1 of students.

2 (3) Online programs and courses in which students take
3 courses and complete on-site, supervised tests that
4 measure the student's mastery of a specific course needed
5 for graduation. Students may take courses online and earn
6 credit or students may prepare to take supervised tests for
7 specific courses for credit leading to receipt of a high
8 school diploma.

9 (4) Dual enrollment in which students attend high
10 school classes in combination with community college
11 classes or students attend community college classes while
12 simultaneously earning high school credit and eventually a
13 high school diploma.

14 (g) In order to have successful comprehensive programs
15 re-enrolling and graduating low-skilled high school dropouts,
16 programs funded through the IHOPE Program shall include all of
17 the following components:

18 (1) Small programs (70 to 100 students) at a separate
19 school site with a distinct identity. Programs may be
20 larger with specific need and justification, keeping in
21 mind that it is crucial to keep programs small to be
22 effective.

23 (2) Specific performance-based goals and outcomes and
24 measures of enrollment, attendance, skills, credits,
25 graduation, and the transition to college, training, and
26 employment.

1 (3) Strong, experienced leadership and teaching staff
2 who are provided with ongoing professional development.

3 (4) Voluntary enrollment.

4 (5) High standards for student learning, integrating
5 work experience, and education, including during the
6 school year and after school, and summer school programs
7 that link internships, work, and learning.

8 (6) Comprehensive programs providing extensive support
9 services.

10 (7) Small teams of students supported by full-time paid
11 mentors who work to retain and help those students
12 graduate.

13 (8) A comprehensive technology learning center with
14 Internet access and broad-based curriculum focusing on
15 academic and career subject areas.

16 (9) Learning opportunities that incorporate action
17 into study.

18 (h) Programs funded through the IHOPE Program must report
19 data to the State Board of Education as requested. This
20 information shall include, but is not limited to, student
21 enrollment figures, attendance information, course completion
22 data, graduation information, and post-graduation information,
23 as available.

24 (i) Rules must be developed by the State Board of Education
25 to set forth the fund distribution process to regional offices
26 of education and a school district organized under Article 34

1 of this Code, the planning and the conditions upon which an
2 IHOPE Plan would be approved by State Board, and other rules to
3 develop the IHOPE Program.

4 (Source: P.A. 96-106, eff. 7-30-09.)