

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 26-1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-1)

7 Sec. 26-1. Compulsory school age-Exemptions. Whoever has  
8 custody or control of any child (i) between the ages of 7 and  
9 17 years (unless the child has already graduated from high  
10 school) for school years before the 2014-2015 school year or  
11 (ii) between the ages of 6 (on or before September 1) and 17  
12 years (unless the child has already graduated from high school)  
13 beginning with the 2014-2015 school year shall cause such child  
14 to attend some public school in the district wherein the child  
15 resides the entire time it is in session during the regular  
16 school term, except as provided in Section 10-19.1, and during  
17 a required summer school program established under Section  
18 10-22.33B; provided, that the following children shall not be  
19 required to attend the public schools:

20 1. Any child attending a private or a parochial school  
21 where children are taught the branches of education taught  
22 to children of corresponding age and grade in the public  
23 schools, and where the instruction of the child in the

1 branches of education is in the English language;

2 2. Any child who is physically or mentally unable to  
3 attend school, such disability being certified to the  
4 county or district truant officer by a competent physician  
5 licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in  
6 all its branches, a chiropractic physician licensed under  
7 the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a licensed advanced  
8 practice nurse, a licensed physician assistant, or a  
9 Christian Science practitioner residing in this State and  
10 listed in the Christian Science Journal; or who is excused  
11 for temporary absence for cause by the principal or teacher  
12 of the school which the child attends; the exemptions in  
13 this paragraph (2) do not apply to any female who is  
14 pregnant or the mother of one or more children, except  
15 where a female is unable to attend school due to a  
16 complication arising from her pregnancy and the existence  
17 of such complication is certified to the county or district  
18 truant officer by a competent physician;

19 3. Any child necessarily and lawfully employed  
20 according to the provisions of the law regulating child  
21 labor may be excused from attendance at school by the  
22 county superintendent of schools or the superintendent of  
23 the public school which the child should be attending, on  
24 certification of the facts by and the recommendation of the  
25 school board of the public school district in which the  
26 child resides. In districts having part time continuation

1 schools, children so excused shall attend such schools at  
2 least 8 hours each week;

3 4. Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in  
4 attendance at confirmation classes;

5 5. Any child absent from a public school on a  
6 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for  
7 the reason that he is unable to attend classes or to  
8 participate in any examination, study or work requirements  
9 on a particular day or days or at a particular time of day,  
10 because the tenets of his religion forbid secular activity  
11 on a particular day or days or at a particular time of day.  
12 Each school board shall prescribe rules and regulations  
13 relative to absences for religious holidays including, but  
14 not limited to, a list of religious holidays on which it  
15 shall be mandatory to excuse a child; but nothing in this  
16 paragraph 5 shall be construed to limit the right of any  
17 school board, at its discretion, to excuse an absence on  
18 any other day by reason of the observance of a religious  
19 holiday. A school board may require the parent or guardian  
20 of a child who is to be excused from attending school due  
21 to the observance of a religious holiday to give notice,  
22 not exceeding 5 days, of the child's absence to the school  
23 principal or other school personnel. Any child excused from  
24 attending school under this paragraph 5 shall not be  
25 required to submit a written excuse for such absence after  
26 returning to school; ~~and~~

1           6. Any child 16 years of age or older who (i) submits  
2 to a school district evidence of necessary and lawful  
3 employment pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Section and (ii)  
4 is enrolled in a graduation incentives program pursuant to  
5 Section 26-16 of this Code or an alternative learning  
6 opportunities program established pursuant to Article 13B  
7 of this Code; and-

8           7. A child in any of grades 6 through 12 absent from a  
9 public school on a particular day or days or at a  
10 particular time of day for the purpose of sounding "Taps"  
11 at a military honors funeral held in this State for a  
12 deceased veteran. In order to be excused under this  
13 paragraph 7, the student shall notify the school's  
14 administration at least 2 days prior to the date of the  
15 absence and shall provide the school's administration with  
16 the date, time, and location of the military honors  
17 funeral. The school's administration may waive this 2-day  
18 notification requirement if the student did not receive at  
19 least 2 days advance notice, but the student shall notify  
20 the school's administration as soon as possible of the  
21 absence. A student whose absence is excused under this  
22 paragraph 7 shall be counted as if the student attended  
23 school for purposes of calculating the average daily  
24 attendance of students in the school district. A student  
25 whose absence is excused under this paragraph 7 must be  
26 allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed

1       during the absence. If the student satisfactorily  
2       completes the school work, the day of absence shall be  
3       counted as a day of compulsory attendance and he or she may  
4       not be penalized for that absence.

5       (Source: P.A. 98-544, eff. 7-1-14; 99-173, eff. 7-29-15.)