



99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB4996

by Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.58 new
105 ILCS 5/34-18.50 new

Amends the School Code. Requires a school board to appoint at least one employee to act as a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer of records of students in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services when enrolling in or changing schools. Sets forth the qualifications for appointment. Provides that liaisons shall build capacity and infrastructure within the school district to support students in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family Services. Sets forth what a liaison's responsibilities may include. Provides that a school district must have a designated liaison by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. Effective immediately.

LRB099 18316 NHT 42690 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 10-20.58 and 34-18.50 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.58 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.58. DCFS liaison.

8 (a) Each school board shall appoint at least one employee
9 to act as a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer
10 of records of students in the legal custody of the Department
11 of Children and Family Services when enrolling in or changing
12 schools. The school board may appoint any employee of the
13 school district who is licensed under Article 21B of this Code
14 to act as a liaison; however, employees who meet any of the
15 following criteria must be prioritized for appointment:

16 (1) Employees who have worked with mobile student
17 populations or students in foster care.

18 (2) Employees who are familiar with enrollment, record
19 transfers, existing community services, and student
20 support services.

21 (3) Employees who serve as a high-level administrator.

22 (4) Employees who are counselors or have experience
23 with student counseling.

1 (5) Employees who are knowledgeable on child welfare
2 policies.

3 (b) Liaisons under this Section shall build capacity and
4 infrastructure within their school district to support
5 students in the legal custody of the Department of Children and
6 Family Services. Liaison responsibilities may include the
7 following:

8 (1) streamlining the enrollment processes for students
9 in foster care;

10 (2) implementing student data tracking and monitoring
11 mechanisms;

12 (3) ensuring that students in the legal custody of the
13 Department of Children and Family Services receive all
14 school nutrition and meal programs available;

15 (4) coordinating student withdrawal from a school,
16 record transfers, and credit recovery;

17 (5) becoming experts on the foster care system and
18 State laws and policies in place that support children
19 under the legal custody of the Department of Children and
20 Family Services;

21 (6) coordinating with child welfare partners;

22 (7) providing foster care-related information and
23 training to the school district;

24 (8) working with the Department of Children and Family
25 Services to help students maintain their school placement,
26 if appropriate;

1 (9) reviewing student schedules to ensure that
2 students are on track to graduate;

3 (10) encouraging a successful transition into
4 adulthood and post-secondary opportunities;

5 (11) encouraging involvement in extracurricular
6 activities; and

7 (12) knowing what support is available within the
8 school district and community for students in the legal
9 custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.

10 (c) A school district must have a designated liaison by the
11 beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

12 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.50 new)

13 Sec. 34-18.50. DCFS liaison.

14 (a) The board shall appoint at least one employee to act as
15 a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer of records
16 of students in the legal custody of the Department of Children
17 and Family Services when enrolling in or changing schools. The
18 board may appoint any employee of the school district who is
19 licensed under Article 21B of this Code to act as a liaison;
20 however, employees who meet any of the following criteria must
21 be prioritized for appointment:

22 (1) Employees who have worked with mobile student
23 populations or students in foster care.

24 (2) Employees who are familiar with enrollment, record
25 transfers, existing community services, and student

1 support services.

2 (3) Employees who serve as a high-level administrator.

3 (4) Employees who are counselors or have experience
4 with student counseling.

5 (5) Employees who are knowledgeable on child welfare
6 policies.

7 (b) Liaisons under this Section shall build capacity and
8 infrastructure within the school district to support students
9 in the legal custody of the Department of Children and Family
10 Services. Liaison responsibilities may include the following:

11 (1) streamlining the enrollment processes for students
12 in foster care;

13 (2) implementing student data tracking and monitoring
14 mechanisms;

15 (3) ensuring that students in the legal custody of the
16 Department of Children and Family Services receive all
17 school nutrition and meal programs available;

18 (4) coordinating student withdrawal from a school,
19 record transfers, and credit recovery;

20 (5) becoming experts on the foster care system and
21 State laws and policies in place that support children
22 under the legal custody of the Department of Children and
23 Family Services;

24 (6) coordinating with child welfare partners;

25 (7) providing foster care-related information and
26 training to the school district;

1 (8) working with the Department of Children and Family
2 Services to help students maintain their school placement,
3 if appropriate;

4 (9) reviewing student schedules to ensure that
5 students are on track to graduate;

6 (10) encouraging a successful transition into
7 adulthood and post-secondary opportunities;

8 (11) encouraging involvement in extracurricular
9 activities; and

10 (12) knowing what support is available within the
11 school district and community for students in the legal
12 custody of the Department of Children and Family Services.

13 (c) The school district must have a designated liaison by
14 the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.