

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 may appoint at least one employee to
9 act as a liaison to facilitate the enrollment and transfer of
10 records of students in the legal custody of the Department of
11 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 (6) Employees who serve as a school social worker.

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (6) coordinating with child welfare partners;

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

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

1 if appropriate;

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

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

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

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

11 (c) A school district is encouraged to designate a liaison
12 by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

13 (d) Individuals licensed under Article 21B of this Code
14 acting as a liaison under this Section shall perform the duties
15 of a liaison in addition to existing contractual obligations.

16 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.50 new)

17 Sec. 34-18.50. DCFS liaison.

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

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

3 (2) Employees who are familiar with enrollment, record
4 transfers, existing community services, and student
5 support services.

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

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

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

11 (6) Employees who serve as a school social worker.

12 (b) Liaisons under this Section are encouraged to build
13 capacity and infrastructure within the school district to
14 support students in the legal custody of the Department of
15 Children and Family Services. Liaison responsibilities may
16 include the following:

17 (1) streamlining the enrollment processes for students
18 in foster care;

19 (2) implementing student data tracking and monitoring
20 mechanisms;

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

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

26 (5) becoming experts on the foster care system and

1 State laws and policies in place that support children
2 under the legal custody of the Department of Children and
3 Family Services;

4 (6) coordinating with child welfare partners;

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

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

10 (9) reviewing student schedules to ensure that
11 students are on track to graduate;

12 (10) encouraging a successful transition into
13 adulthood and post-secondary opportunities;

14 (11) encouraging involvement in extracurricular
15 activities; and

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

19 (c) The school district is encouraged to designate a
20 liaison by the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

21 (d) Individuals licensed under Article 21B of this Code
22 acting as a liaison under this Section shall perform the duties
23 of a liaison in addition to existing contractual obligations.

24 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
25 becoming law.