

# HB5243



## 99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2015 and 2016

HB5243

by Rep. Michael J. Madigan

### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.71

from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71

Amends the School Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning grants for preschool educational programs.

LRB099 17360 NHT 41718 b

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 changing Section  
5 2-3.71 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71)  
7 Sec. 2-3.71. Grants for preschool educational programs.

8 (a) Preschool program.

9 (1) The ~~The~~ State Board of Education shall implement  
10 and administer a grant program under the provisions of this  
11 subsection which shall consist of grants to public school  
12 districts and other eligible entities, as defined by the  
13 State Board of Education, to conduct voluntary preschool  
14 educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 which include  
15 a parent education component. A public school district  
16 which receives grants under this subsection may  
17 subcontract with other entities that are eligible to  
18 conduct a preschool educational program. These grants must  
19 be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from  
20 any other source.

21 (2) (Blank).

22 (3) Any teacher of preschool children in the program  
23 authorized by this subsection shall hold an early childhood

1 teaching certificate.

2 (4) (Blank).

3 (4.5) The State Board of Education shall provide the  
4 primary source of funding through appropriations for the  
5 program. Such funds shall be distributed to achieve a goal  
6 of "Preschool for All Children" for the benefit of all  
7 children whose families choose to participate in the  
8 program. Based on available appropriations, newly funded  
9 programs shall be selected through a process giving first  
10 priority to qualified programs serving primarily at-risk  
11 children and second priority to qualified programs serving  
12 primarily children with a family income of less than 4  
13 times the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the  
14 Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
15 Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For  
16 purposes of this paragraph (4.5), at-risk children are  
17 those who because of their home and community environment  
18 are subject to such language, cultural, economic and like  
19 disadvantages to cause them to have been determined as a  
20 result of screening procedures to be at risk of academic  
21 failure. Such screening procedures shall be based on  
22 criteria established by the State Board of Education.

23 Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (4.5),  
24 grantees under the program must enter into a memorandum of  
25 understanding with the appropriate local Head Start  
26 agency. This memorandum must be entered into no later than

1           3 months after the award of a grantee's grant under the  
2           program, except that, in the case of the 2009-2010 program  
3           year, the memorandum must be entered into no later than the  
4           deadline set by the State Board of Education for  
5           applications to participate in the program in fiscal year  
6           2011, and must address collaboration between the grantee's  
7           program and the local Head Start agency on certain issues,  
8           which shall include without limitation the following:

9                   (A) educational activities, curricular objectives,  
10                   and instruction;

11                   (B) public information dissemination and access to  
12                   programs for families contacting programs;

13                   (C) service areas;

14                   (D) selection priorities for eligible children to  
15                   be served by programs;

16                   (E) maximizing the impact of federal and State  
17                   funding to benefit young children;

18                   (F) staff training, including opportunities for  
19                   joint staff training;

20                   (G) technical assistance;

21                   (H) communication and parent outreach for smooth  
22                   transitions to kindergarten;

23                   (I) provision and use of facilities,  
24                   transportation, and other program elements;

25                   (J) facilitating each program's fulfillment of its  
26                   statutory and regulatory requirements;

1           (K) improving local planning and collaboration;  
2           and

3           (L) providing comprehensive services for the  
4           neediest Illinois children and families.

5           If the appropriate local Head Start agency is unable or  
6           unwilling to enter into a memorandum of understanding as  
7           required under this paragraph (4.5), the memorandum of  
8           understanding requirement shall not apply and the grantee  
9           under the program must notify the State Board of Education  
10          in writing of the Head Start agency's inability or  
11          unwillingness. The State Board of Education shall compile  
12          all such written notices and make them available to the  
13          public.

14          (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
15          provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school  
16          districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate  
17          children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State  
18          Board of Education shall require school districts and other  
19          eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or  
20          guardians of children before any evaluations are  
21          conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage  
22          local school districts and other eligible entities to  
23          evaluate the population of preschool children in their  
24          communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to  
25          this subsection, where appropriate.

26          (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the

1 General Assembly by November 1, 2010 and every 3 years  
2 thereafter on the results and progress of students who were  
3 enrolled in preschool educational programs, including an  
4 assessment of which programs have been most successful in  
5 promoting academic excellence and alleviating academic  
6 failure. The State Board of Education shall assess the  
7 academic progress of all students who have been enrolled in  
8 preschool educational programs.

9 On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which  
10 the General Assembly provides funding for new programs  
11 under paragraph (4.5) of this Section, the State Board of  
12 Education shall report to the General Assembly on what  
13 percentage of new funding was provided to programs serving  
14 primarily at-risk children, what percentage of new funding  
15 was provided to programs serving primarily children with a  
16 family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty  
17 level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to  
18 other programs.

19 (b) (Blank).

20 (Source: P.A. 95-724, eff. 6-30-08; 96-119, eff. 8-4-09;  
21 96-944, eff. 6-25-10; 96-948, eff. 6-25-10.)