



HR0477

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness  
3 Committee of the Illinois P-20 Council engaged with numerous  
4 and varied stakeholders during a year-long process to identify  
5 strategies and key success factors for supporting  
6 postsecondary education and career readiness; and

7           WHEREAS, These strategies and key success factors included  
8 a systemic approach to personalized learning plans, ensuring  
9 high school graduation signifies readiness for college and  
10 careers, ensuring opportunities for students to earn early  
11 college credit, allowing for the development of innovative  
12 approaches for students to earn and transfer high school and  
13 postsecondary credit, and providing all students with career  
14 exploration supports and work-based learning opportunities;  
15 and

16           WHEREAS, Student readiness for postsecondary education and  
17 careers cannot be reduced to a single metric, but must instead  
18 be understood as a multi-faceted set of knowledge, skills, and  
19 abilities that allow students to successfully meet the  
20 challenges of college and career and live healthy, productive  
21 lives; and

22           WHEREAS, Raising academic expectations through

1 implementation of the revised Illinois Learning Standards and  
2 expanding career education and opportunities through the  
3 Illinois Pathways initiative are not divergent strategies, but  
4 rather mutually reinforcing ones that, when used together,  
5 provide all students with a wider range of individualized,  
6 contextualized, realistic, and enriching learning  
7 opportunities; and

8 WHEREAS, By transitioning away from seat time and enabling  
9 students to master skills at their own pace, competency-based  
10 learning systems allow students to progress as they demonstrate  
11 mastery of academic content and also create multiple pathways  
12 to graduation, take advantage of learning opportunities  
13 outside of school hours and walls, and help identify  
14 opportunities to target interventions to meet the specific  
15 learning needs of students; and

16 WHEREAS, Various Illinois community colleges and their  
17 feeder school districts have demonstrated that co-designed and  
18 co-developed programs that provide developmental education to  
19 12th grade students who are not prepared for college-level  
20 instruction can dramatically reduce remediation rates and  
21 thereby provide significant savings to families and taxpayers;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, While dual credit is an important strategy for

1 promoting college and career readiness and Illinois student  
2 participation in dual credit courses continues to increase, the  
3 ability of Illinois high school students to access dual credit  
4 courses in core academic courses is frequently limited by a  
5 high school's lack of teachers with a master's degree in the  
6 appropriate content area; and

7 WHEREAS, Career pathway programs that include attainment  
8 of core academic competencies, attainment of career-oriented  
9 competencies, professional learning via internships or other  
10 similar opportunities, and attainment of industry-relevant  
11 credentials enable students to accelerate advancement toward  
12 individualized career goals and enable students to make  
13 informed postsecondary education and career decisions; and

14 WHEREAS, Increased communication and collaboration across  
15 governmental, educational, and business entities must be  
16 leveraged to provide students with clear, consistent  
17 expectations, more navigable college and career preparation,  
18 and better targeted supports to meet individual student needs;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
21 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
22 encourage the State Superintendent of Education and the  
23 executive directors of the Illinois Community College Board,

1 the Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Student  
2 Assistance Commission to establish an advisory committee to  
3 provide recommendations that address:

4 (1) proposed new, competency-based high school  
5 graduation requirements based on student proficiency of  
6 identified competencies aligned to the Illinois Learning  
7 Standards;

8 (2) multiple methods, including, but not limited to,  
9 standardized assessments, for determining student  
10 proficiency levels on the identified competencies;

11 (3) mapping of student proficiency levels to  
12 achievement of identified competencies;

13 (4) the required role of licensed teachers in  
14 determining student proficiency levels on identified  
15 competencies, and the permissive role of non-licensed  
16 professionals; and

17 (5) acceptance of competency-based high school  
18 diplomas by postsecondary and financial aid institutions;  
19 and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, the Illinois  
21 Community College Board, the Board of Higher Education, and the  
22 Illinois Student Assistance Commission are encouraged to  
23 deliver recommendations to the General Assembly on or before  
24 February 1, 2016 for pilot implementation of competency-based  
25 graduation requirements, including proposed legislation for

1 the implementation of said recommendations; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That that the State Superintendent and the  
3 executive directors of the Illinois Community College Board,  
4 Board of Higher Education, and Illinois Student Assistance  
5 Commission are encouraged to establish an advisory committee to  
6 provide recommendations for the statewide scaling of programs  
7 co-developed by community colleges and their feeder high  
8 schools that provide developmental education to 12th grade  
9 students who are not prepared for college-level instruction in  
10 order to significantly reduce statewide remedial education  
11 rates; the recommendations are encouraged to address:

12 (1) the use of multiple measures in high school to  
13 determine student preparation for college-level  
14 instruction;

15 (2) the appropriate timing of determinations of  
16 college readiness during the 11th grade year to support  
17 placement into appropriate course work during 12th  
18 grade;

19 (3) the use of curriculum and assessments co-developed  
20 by high school and postsecondary education faculty; and

21 (4) the development of statewide model instructional  
22 supports, including contextualized, career  
23 pathway-related, instructional supports addressing English  
24 Language Arts and mathematics competencies; and be it  
25 further

1           RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, the Illinois  
2           Community College Board, the Board of Higher Education, and the  
3           Illinois Student Assistance Commission are encouraged to  
4           deliver recommendations to the General Assembly on or before  
5           February 1, 2016 for the implementation of said policies and  
6           programs and proposed legislation for implementation of said  
7           recommendations; and be it further

8           RESOLVED, That the State Board of Education, the Illinois  
9           Community College Board, the Board of Higher Education, and the  
10          Illinois Student Assistance Commission, in consultation with  
11          appropriate stakeholders, are encouraged to enter into an  
12          intergovernmental agreement by June 30, 2016 for the joint  
13          establishment of a program that will incentivize and accelerate  
14          the delivery of professional development and continuing  
15          education for high school teachers that will allow them to  
16          qualify as instructors for dual credit courses in high-need  
17          subject areas and locations within the State; and be it further

18          RESOLVED, That this program be encouraged to include at  
19          least a common statewide application for high school teachers,  
20          commitments from teacher preparation providers to develop  
21          cohort models appropriate for high school teachers, and other  
22          supports for accelerated higher education delivery models; and  
23          be it further

1           RESOLVED, That the agencies participating in the Illinois  
2 Pathways Interagency Committee ("IPIC"), which was formed by  
3 intergovernmental agreement among the State Board of  
4 Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the Board of  
5 Higher Education, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission,  
6 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and the  
7 Department of Employment Security (the "IPIC Agencies"), are  
8 encouraged to establish one or more advisory committees that  
9 address:

10           (1) the requirements for awarding career pathway  
11 endorsements in industry sectors prioritized by IPIC on a  
12 high school diploma;

13           (2) opportunities for expanded access to career  
14 pathway endorsements, including programs available outside  
15 a student's resident school district;

16           (3) increased recognition of career pathway  
17 endorsements by Illinois public community colleges and  
18 universities for course placement, advising, and college  
19 credit; and

20           (4) appropriate supports from State agencies,  
21 employers, and the public-private partnerships supported  
22 by IPIC known as STEM Learning Exchanges for student  
23 attainment of career pathway endorsements; and be it  
24 further

1           RESOLVED, That the IPIC Agencies are encouraged to deliver  
2 recommendations to the General Assembly on or before February  
3 1, 2016 for the implementation of a system for awarding career  
4 pathway endorsements and related policies and supports,  
5 including proposed legislation for implementation of said  
6 recommendations; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That the IPIC Agencies are encouraged to  
8 establish one or more advisory committees that address:

9           (1) grade-level expectations for education and career  
10 development and planning;

11           (2) methods for ensuring all public middle and high  
12 school students have access to web-based, individualized  
13 tools to plan for postsecondary education, careers, and  
14 financial aid, including the alignment of such processes  
15 with high school consumer education instruction;

16           (3) the development of a financial literacy program for  
17 students and families that aligns postsecondary education  
18 and career choices with likely financial outcomes to  
19 support economically sound decision-making;

20           (4) the incorporation of individualized planning for  
21 postsecondary education, careers, and financial aid into  
22 high school consumer education instruction; and

23           (5) methods for increasing FAFSA completion rates; and  
24 be it further



1           RESOLVED, That the IPIC Agencies are encouraged to deliver  
2           recommendations to the General Assembly on or before February  
3           1, 2016 for the implementation of said policies and programs,  
4           including proposed legislation for implementation of said  
5           recommendations; and be it further

6           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
7           delivered to the IPIC Agencies.