

1 AN ACT relating to schools.

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 Section  
5 2-3.131 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.131 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.131. K-3 class size reduction grant program. A  
8 class size reduction grant program is hereby created. The  
9 program shall be implemented and administered by the State  
10 Board of Education, which shall award grants from  
11 appropriations made for purposes of this Section to school  
12 districts that meet the criteria established by this Section  
13 for the award of those grants.

14 Grants shall be awarded pursuant to application. The  
15 form and manner of applications and the criteria for the  
16 award of grants shall be prescribed by the State Board of  
17 Education. However, the grant criteria as so prescribed  
18 shall provide that: (i) only those districts that maintain  
19 grades kindergarten through 3 shall be grant eligible and  
20 only with respect to such of those grades as have an average  
21 class size for the grade of at least 23 pupils per classroom  
22 at the time the district applies for the grant; (ii) if a  
23 district qualifies for a grant under item (i), the grant  
24 shall be conditioned upon the agreement of the district to  
25 reduce the size of each classroom maintained for pupils in  
26 the grade with respect to which that grant is made by at  
27 least 5 pupils per classroom; and (iii) no grant funds shall  
28 be awarded to enable a district to reduce class size to less  
29 than 18 pupils per classroom.

30 Grants awarded to eligible districts under this Section  
31 shall be used and applied by the districts to defray the

1 costs and expenses of operating and maintaining classes in  
2 grades kindergarten through 3 that meet the size criteria  
3 established by this Section.

4 The State Board of Education shall adopt any rules,  
5 consistent with the requirements of this Section, that are  
6 necessary to implement and administer the K-3 class size  
7 reduction grant program.

8 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July  
9 1, 2001.