

AN ACT concerning education.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section 2-3.123 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.123)

Sec. 2-3.123. Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence pilot program. From appropriations made for purposes of this Section, the State Board of Education shall implement and administer a Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence pilot program for the study and evaluation of autism and to provide related ~~teacher~~ training for teachers, paraprofessionals, and respite workers, therapist training, and consultative services. The program shall be operated over a period of 3 school years, beginning with the 2005-2006 ~~1997-1998~~ school year. The State Board of Education is authorized to make grants to school districts and other programs that apply to participate in the Giant Steps Autism Center for Excellence program as implemented and administered by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall by rule provide the form of application and criteria to be used and applied in selecting participating school districts and other programs.

(Source: P.A. 90-498, eff. 8-18-97; 90-655, eff. 7-30-98.)

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