

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 Sections 2-3.25g, 2-3.32, 2-3.47, 10-22.5a, 14-7.03, 18-4.5, 18-6, 27A-5, 27A-6.5, 27A-7, 27A-9, 27A-11, and 27A-11.5 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25g)

Sec. 2-3.25g. Waiver or modification of mandates within the School Code and administrative rules and regulations.

(a) In this Section:

"Board" means a school board or the governing board or administrative district, as the case may be, for a joint agreement.

"Eligible applicant" means a school district, joint agreement made up of school districts, or regional superintendent of schools on behalf of schools and programs operated by the regional office of education.

"Implementation date" has the meaning set forth in Section 24A-2.5 of this Code.

"State Board" means the State Board of Education.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this School Code or any other law of this State to the contrary, eligible applicants may petition the State Board of Education for the

waiver or modification of the mandates of this School Code or of the administrative rules and regulations promulgated by the State Board of Education. Waivers or modifications of administrative rules and regulations and modifications of mandates of this School Code may be requested when an eligible applicant demonstrates that it can address the intent of the rule or mandate in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner or when necessary to stimulate innovation or improve student performance. Waivers of mandates of the School Code may be requested when the waivers are necessary to stimulate innovation or improve student performance. Waivers may not be requested from laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to special education, teacher educator licensure certification, teacher tenure and seniority, or Section 5-2.1 of this Code or from compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110). Eligible applicants may not seek a waiver or seek a modification of a mandate regarding the requirements for (i) student performance data to be a significant factor in teacher or principal evaluations or (ii) for teachers and principals to be rated using the 4 categories of "excellent", "proficient", "needs improvement", or "unsatisfactory". On September 1, 2014, any previously authorized waiver or modification from such requirements shall terminate.

(c) Eligible applicants, as a matter of inherent managerial policy, and any Independent Authority established under Section 2-3.25f may submit an application for a waiver or

modification authorized under this Section. Each application must include a written request by the eligible applicant or Independent Authority and must demonstrate that the intent of the mandate can be addressed in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner or be based upon a specific plan for improved student performance and school improvement. Any eligible applicant requesting a waiver or modification for the reason that intent of the mandate can be addressed in a more economical manner shall include in the application a fiscal analysis showing current expenditures on the mandate and projected savings resulting from the waiver or modification. Applications and plans developed by eligible applicants must be approved by the board or regional superintendent of schools applying on behalf of schools or programs operated by the regional office of education following a public hearing on the application and plan and the opportunity for the board or regional superintendent to hear testimony from staff directly involved in its implementation, parents, and students. The time period for such testimony shall be separate from the time period established by the eligible applicant for public comment on other matters. If the applicant is a school district or joint agreement requesting a waiver or modification of Section 27-6 of this Code, the public hearing shall be held on a day other than the day on which a regular meeting of the board is held.

(c-5) If the applicant is a school district, then the

district shall post information that sets forth the time, date, place, and general subject matter of the public hearing on its Internet website at least 14 days prior to the hearing. If the district is requesting to increase the fee charged for driver education authorized pursuant to Section 27-24.2 of this Code, the website information shall include the proposed amount of the fee the district will request. All school districts must publish a notice of the public hearing at least 7 days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district that sets forth the time, date, place, and general subject matter of the hearing. Districts requesting to increase the fee charged for driver education shall include in the published notice the proposed amount of the fee the district will request. If the applicant is a joint agreement or regional superintendent, then the joint agreement or regional superintendent shall post information that sets forth the time, date, place, and general subject matter of the public hearing on its Internet website at least 14 days prior to the hearing. If the joint agreement or regional superintendent is requesting to increase the fee charged for driver education authorized pursuant to Section 27-24.2 of this Code, the website information shall include the proposed amount of the fee the applicant will request. All joint agreements and regional superintendents must publish a notice of the public hearing at least 7 days prior to the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in each school district that is a member of the

joint agreement or that is served by the educational service region that sets forth the time, date, place, and general subject matter of the hearing, provided that a notice appearing in a newspaper generally circulated in more than one school district shall be deemed to fulfill this requirement with respect to all of the affected districts. Joint agreements or regional superintendents requesting to increase the fee charged for driver education shall include in the published notice the proposed amount of the fee the applicant will request. The eligible applicant must notify in writing the affected exclusive collective bargaining agent and those State legislators representing the eligible applicant's territory of its intent to seek approval of a waiver or modification and of the hearing to be held to take testimony from staff. The affected exclusive collective bargaining agents shall be notified of such public hearing at least 7 days prior to the date of the hearing and shall be allowed to attend such public hearing. The eligible applicant shall attest to compliance with all of the notification and procedural requirements set forth in this Section.

(d) A request for a waiver or modification of administrative rules and regulations or for a modification of mandates contained in this School Code shall be submitted to the State Board of Education within 15 days after approval by the board or regional superintendent of schools. The application as submitted to the State Board of Education shall

include a description of the public hearing. Except with respect to contracting for adaptive driver education, an eligible applicant wishing to request a modification or waiver of administrative rules of the State Board of Education regarding contracting with a commercial driver training school to provide the course of study authorized under Section 27-24.2 of this Code must provide evidence with its application that the commercial driver training school with which it will contract holds a license issued by the Secretary of State under Article IV of Chapter 6 of the Illinois Vehicle Code and that each instructor employed by the commercial driver training school to provide instruction to students served by the school district holds a valid teaching certificate or teaching license, as applicable, issued under the requirements of this Code and rules of the State Board of Education. Such evidence must include, but need not be limited to, a list of each instructor assigned to teach students served by the school district, which list shall include the instructor's name, personal identification number as required by the State Board of Education, birth date, and driver's license number. If the modification or waiver is granted, then the eligible applicant shall notify the State Board of Education of any changes in the personnel providing instruction within 15 calendar days after an instructor leaves the program or a new instructor is hired. Such notification shall include the instructor's name, personal identification number as required by the State Board

of Education, birth date, and driver's license number. If a school district maintains an Internet website, then the district shall post a copy of the final contract between the district and the commercial driver training school on the district's Internet website. If no Internet website exists, then the district shall make available the contract upon request. A record of all materials in relation to the application for contracting must be maintained by the school district and made available to parents and guardians upon request. The instructor's date of birth and driver's license number and any other personally identifying information as deemed by the federal Driver's Privacy Protection Act of 1994 must be redacted from any public materials. Following receipt of the waiver or modification request, the State Board shall have 45 days to review the application and request. If the State Board fails to disapprove the application within that 45 day period, the waiver or modification shall be deemed granted. The State Board may disapprove any request if it is not based upon sound educational practices, endangers the health or safety of students or staff, compromises equal opportunities for learning, or fails to demonstrate that the intent of the rule or mandate can be addressed in a more effective, efficient, or economical manner or have improved student performance as a primary goal. Any request disapproved by the State Board may be appealed to the General Assembly by the eligible applicant as outlined in this Section.

A request for a waiver from mandates contained in this School Code shall be submitted to the State Board within 15 days after approval by the board or regional superintendent of schools. The application as submitted to the State Board of Education shall include a description of the public hearing. The description shall include, but need not be limited to, the means of notice, the number of people in attendance, the number of people who spoke as proponents or opponents of the waiver, a brief description of their comments, and whether there were any written statements submitted. The State Board shall review the applications and requests for completeness and shall compile the requests in reports to be filed with the General Assembly. The State Board shall file reports outlining the waivers requested by eligible applicants and appeals by eligible applicants of requests disapproved by the State Board with the Senate and the House of Representatives before each March 1 and October 1. The General Assembly may disapprove the report of the State Board in whole or in part within 60 calendar days after each house of the General Assembly next convenes after the report is filed by adoption of a resolution by a record vote of the majority of members elected in each house. If the General Assembly fails to disapprove any waiver request or appealed request within such 60 day period, the waiver or modification shall be deemed granted. Any resolution adopted by the General Assembly disapproving a report of the State Board in whole or in part shall be binding on the State Board.

(e) An approved waiver or modification (except a waiver from or modification to a physical education mandate) may remain in effect for a period not to exceed 5 school years and may be renewed upon application by the eligible applicant. However, such waiver or modification may be changed within that 5-year period by a board or regional superintendent of schools applying on behalf of schools or programs operated by the regional office of education following the procedure as set forth in this Section for the initial waiver or modification request. If neither the State Board of Education nor the General Assembly disapproves, the change is deemed granted.

An approved waiver from or modification to a physical education mandate may remain in effect for a period not to exceed 2 school years and may be renewed no more than 2 times upon application by the eligible applicant. An approved waiver from or modification to a physical education mandate may be changed within the 2-year period by the board or regional superintendent of schools, whichever is applicable, following the procedure set forth in this Section for the initial waiver or modification request. If neither the State Board of Education nor the General Assembly disapproves, the change is deemed granted.

(f) (Blank).

(Source: P.A. 97-1025, eff. 1-1-13; 98-513, eff. 1-1-14.)

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.32) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.32)

Sec. 2-3.32. Auditing department. To maintain a division of audits ~~to consist of one qualified supervisor and junior accountants who are to be competent persons~~ whose duty it shall be to establish a system to perform audits, on a sample basis, of audit all claims for state moneys relative to the public school system of Illinois.

(Source: Laws 1965, p. 1985.)

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.47) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.47)

Sec. 2-3.47. The State Board of Education shall annually submit a budget recommendation to the Governor and General Assembly that contains recommendations for funding for pre-school through grade 12. ~~Comprehensive Educational Plan. The State Board of Education shall analyze the current and anticipated problems and deficiencies, present and future minimum needs and requirements and immediate and future objectives and goals of elementary and secondary education in the State of Illinois, and shall design and prepare a Comprehensive Educational Plan for the development, expansion, integration, coordination, and improved and efficient utilization of the personnel, facilities, revenues, curricula and standards of elementary and secondary education for the public schools in the areas of teaching (including preparation, certification, compensation, classification, performance rating and tenure), administration, program content and enrichment, student academic achievement, class size,~~

~~transportation, educational finance and budgetary and accounting procedure, and educational policy and resource planning. In formulating the Comprehensive Educational Plan for elementary and secondary education, pre school through grade 12, in this State, the State Board of Education shall give consideration to disabled, occupational, career and other specialized areas of elementary and secondary education, and further shall consider the problems, requirements and objectives of private elementary and secondary schools within the State as the same relate to the present and future problems, deficiencies, needs, requirements, objectives and goals of the public school system of Illinois. As an integral part of the Comprehensive Educational Plan, the State Board of Education shall develop an annual budget for education for the entire State which details the required, total revenues from all sources and the estimated total expenditures for all purposes under the Comprehensive Educational Plan. The budgets shall specify the amount of revenue projected from each source and the amount of expenditure estimated for each purpose for the fiscal year, and shall specifically relate and identify such projected revenues and estimated expenditures to the particular problem, deficiency, need, requirement, objective or goal set forth in the Comprehensive Educational Plan to which such revenues for expenditures are attributable. The State Board of Education shall prepare and submit to the General Assembly and the Governor drafts of proposed~~

~~legislation to implement the Comprehensive Educational Plan; shall engage in a continuing study, analysis and evaluation of the Comprehensive Educational Plan so designed and prepared; and shall from time to time as required with respect to such annual budgets, and as the State Board of Education shall determine with respect to any proposed amendments or modifications of any Comprehensive Educational Plan enacted by the General Assembly, submit its drafts or recommendations for proposed legislation to the General Assembly and the Governor.~~

(Source: P.A. 93-21, eff. 7-1-03.)

(105 ILCS 5/10-22.5a) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.5a)

Sec. 10-22.5a. Attendance by dependents of United States military personnel, foreign exchange students, and certain nonresident pupils.

(a) To enter into written agreements with cultural exchange organizations, or with nationally recognized eleemosynary institutions that promote excellence in the arts, mathematics, or science. The written agreements may provide for tuition free attendance at the local district school by foreign exchange students, or by nonresident pupils of eleemosynary institutions. The local board of education, as part of the agreement, may require that the cultural exchange program or the eleemosynary institutions provide services to the district in exchange for the waiver of nonresident tuition.

To enter into written agreements with adjacent school

districts to provide for tuition free attendance by a student of the adjacent district when requested for the student's health and safety by the student or parent and both districts determine that the student's health or safety will be served by such attendance. Districts shall not be required to enter into such agreements nor be required to alter existing transportation services due to the attendance of such non-resident pupils.

(a-5) If, at the time of enrollment, a dependent of United States military personnel is housed in temporary housing located outside of a school district, but will be living within the district within 60 days after the time of initial enrollment, the dependent must be allowed to enroll, subject to the requirements of this subsection (a-5), and must not be charged tuition. Any United States military personnel attempting to enroll a dependent under this subsection (a-5) shall provide proof that the dependent will be living within the district within 60 days after the time of initial enrollment. Proof of residency may include, but is not limited to, postmarked mail addressed to the military personnel and sent to an address located within the district, a lease agreement for occupancy of a residence located within the district, or proof of ownership of a residence located within the district.

(b) Nonresident pupils and foreign exchange students attending school on a tuition free basis under such agreements

and nonresident dependents of United States military personnel attending school on a tuition free basis may be counted for the purposes of determining the apportionment of State aid provided under Section 18-8.05 of this Code, ~~provided that any cultural exchange organization or eleemosynary institutions wishing to participate in an agreement authorized under this Section must be approved in writing by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education may establish reasonable rules to determine the eligibility of cultural exchange organizations or eleemosynary institutions wishing to participate in agreements authorized under this Section.~~ No organization or institution participating in agreements authorized under this Section may exclude any individual for participation in its program on account of the person's race, color, sex, religion or nationality.

(Source: P.A. 93-740, eff. 7-15-04.)

(105 ILCS 5/14-7.03) (from Ch. 122, par. 14-7.03)

Sec. 14-7.03. Special Education Classes for Children from Orphanages, Foster Family Homes, Children's Homes, or in State Housing Units. If a school district maintains special education classes on the site of orphanages and children's homes, or if children from the orphanages, children's homes, foster family homes, other State agencies, or State residential units for children attend classes for children with disabilities in which the school district is a participating member of a joint

agreement, or if the children from the orphanages, children's homes, foster family homes, other State agencies, or State residential units attend classes for the children with disabilities maintained by the school district, then reimbursement shall be paid to eligible districts in accordance with the provisions of this Section by the Comptroller as directed by the State Superintendent of Education.

The amount of tuition for such children shall be determined by the actual cost of maintaining such classes, using the per capita cost formula set forth in Section 14-7.01, such program and cost to be pre-approved by the State Superintendent of Education.

~~On forms prepared by the State Superintendent of Education, the district shall certify to the regional superintendent the following:~~

~~(1) The name of the home or State residential unit with the name of the owner or proprietor and address of those maintaining it;~~

~~(2) That no service charges or other payments authorized by law were collected in lieu of taxes therefrom or on account thereof during either of the calendar years included in the school year for which claim is being made;~~

~~(3) The number of children qualifying under this Act in special education classes for instruction on the site of the orphanages and children's homes;~~

~~(4) The number of children attending special education~~

~~classes for children with disabilities in which the district is a participating member of a special education joint agreement;~~

~~(5) The number of children attending special education classes for children with disabilities maintained by the district;~~

~~(6) The computed amount of tuition payment claimed as due, as approved by the State Superintendent of Education, for maintaining these classes.~~

If a school district makes a claim for reimbursement under Section 18-3 or 18-4 of this Act it shall not include in any claim filed under this Section a claim for such children. Payments authorized by law, including State or federal grants for education of children included in this Section, shall be deducted in determining the tuition amount.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed so as to prohibit reimbursement for the tuition of children placed in for profit facilities. Private facilities shall provide adequate space at the facility for special education classes provided by a school district or joint agreement for children with disabilities who are residents of the facility at no cost to the school district or joint agreement upon request of the school district or joint agreement. If such a private facility provides space at no cost to the district or joint agreement for special education classes provided to children with disabilities who are residents of the facility, the district or joint agreement

shall not include any costs for the use of those facilities in its claim for reimbursement.

Reimbursement for tuition may include the cost of providing summer school programs for children with severe and profound disabilities served under this Section. Claims for that reimbursement shall be filed by November 1 and shall be paid on or before December 15 from appropriations made for the purposes of this Section.

The State Board of Education shall establish such rules and regulations as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this Section.

Claims filed on behalf of programs operated under this Section housed in a jail, detention center, or county-owned shelter care facility shall be on an individual student basis only for eligible students with disabilities. These claims shall be in accordance with applicable rules.

Each district claiming reimbursement for a program operated as a group program shall have an approved budget on file with the State Board of Education prior to the initiation of the program's operation. On September 30, December 31, and March 31, the State Board of Education shall voucher payments to group programs based upon the approved budget during the year of operation. Final claims for group payments shall be filed on or before July 15. Final claims for group programs received at the State Board of Education on or before June 15 shall be vouchered by June 30. Final claims received at the

State Board of Education between June 16 and July 15 shall be vouchered by August 30. Claims for group programs received after July 15 shall not be honored.

Each district claiming reimbursement for individual students shall have the eligibility of those students verified by the State Board of Education. On September 30, December 31, and March 31, the State Board of Education shall voucher payments for individual students based upon an estimated cost calculated from the prior year's claim. Final claims for individual students for the regular school term must be received at the State Board of Education by July 15. Claims for individual students received after July 15 shall not be honored. Final claims for individual students shall be vouchered by August 30.

Reimbursement shall be made based upon approved group programs or individual students. The State Superintendent of Education shall direct the Comptroller to pay a specified amount to the district by the 30th day of September, December, March, June, or August, respectively. However, notwithstanding any other provisions of this Section or the School Code, beginning with fiscal year 1994 and each fiscal year thereafter, if the amount appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount required for purposes of this Section, the amount required to eliminate any insufficient reimbursement for each district claim under this Section shall be reimbursed on August 30 of the next fiscal year. Payments required to

eliminate any insufficiency for prior fiscal year claims shall be made before any claims are paid for the current fiscal year.

The claim of a school district otherwise eligible to be reimbursed in accordance with Section 14-12.01 for the 1976-77 school year but for this amendatory Act of 1977 shall not be paid unless the district ceases to maintain such classes for one entire school year.

If a school district's current reimbursement payment for the 1977-78 school year only is less than the prior year's reimbursement payment owed, the district shall be paid the amount of the difference between the payments in addition to the current reimbursement payment, and the amount so paid shall be subtracted from the amount of prior year's reimbursement payment owed to the district.

Regional superintendents may operate special education classes for children from orphanages, foster family homes, children's homes or State housing units located within the educational services region upon consent of the school board otherwise so obligated. In electing to assume the powers and duties of a school district in providing and maintaining such a special education program, the regional superintendent may enter into joint agreements with other districts and may contract with public or private schools or the orphanage, foster family home, children's home or State housing unit for provision of the special education program. The regional superintendent exercising the powers granted under this

Section shall claim the reimbursement authorized by this Section directly from the State Board of Education.

Any child who is not a resident of Illinois who is placed in a child welfare institution, private facility, foster family home, State operated program, orphanage or children's home shall have the payment for his educational tuition and any related services assured by the placing agent.

For each disabled student who is placed in a residential facility by an Illinois public agency or by any court in this State, the costs for educating the student are eligible for reimbursement under this Section.

The district of residence of the disabled student as defined in Section 14-1.11a is responsible for the actual costs of the student's special education program and is eligible for reimbursement under this Section when placement is made by a State agency or the courts.

When a dispute arises over the determination of the district of residence under this Section, the district or districts may appeal the decision in writing to the State Superintendent of Education, who, upon review of materials submitted and any other items or information he or she may request for submission, shall issue a written decision on the matter. The decision of the State Superintendent of Education shall be final.

In the event a district does not make a tuition payment to another district that is providing the special education

program and services, the State Board of Education shall immediately withhold 125% of the then remaining annual tuition cost from the State aid or categorical aid payment due to the school district that is determined to be the resident school district. All funds withheld by the State Board of Education shall immediately be forwarded to the school district where the student is being served.

When a child eligible for services under this Section 14-7.03 must be placed in a nonpublic facility, that facility shall meet the programmatic requirements of Section 14-7.02 and its regulations, and the educational services shall be funded only in accordance with this Section 14-7.03.

(Source: P.A. 95-313, eff. 8-20-07; 95-844, eff. 8-15-08.)

(105 ILCS 5/18-4.5)

Sec. 18-4.5. Home Hospital Grants. Except for those children qualifying under Article 14, school districts shall be eligible to receive reimbursement for all children requiring home or hospital instruction at not more than \$1,000 annually per child or \$9,000 ~~\$8,000~~ per teacher, whichever is less.

(Source: P.A. 88-386.)

(105 ILCS 5/18-6) (from Ch. 122, par. 18-6)

Sec. 18-6. Supervisory expenses. The State Board of Education shall annually request an appropriation ~~from the common school fund~~ for regional office of education expenses,

aggregating \$1,000 per county per year for each educational service region. The State Board of Education shall present vouchers to the Comptroller as soon as may be after the first day of August each year for each regional office of education. Each regional office of education may draw upon these funds ~~this fund~~ for the expenses necessarily incurred in providing for supervisory services in the region.

(Source: P.A. 88-9; 89-397, eff. 8-20-95.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-5)

Sec. 27A-5. Charter school; legal entity; requirements.

(a) A charter school shall be a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious, non-home based, and non-profit school. A charter school shall be organized and operated as a nonprofit corporation or other discrete, legal, nonprofit entity authorized under the laws of the State of Illinois.

(b) A charter school may be established under this Article by creating a new school or by converting an existing public school or attendance center to charter school status. Beginning on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly, in all new applications ~~submitted to the State Board or a local school board~~ to establish a charter school in a city having a population exceeding 500,000, operation of the charter school shall be limited to one campus. The changes made to this Section by this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly do not apply to charter schools existing

or approved on or before the effective date of this amendatory Act.

(b-5) In this subsection (b-5), "virtual-schooling" means the teaching of courses through online methods with online instructors, rather than the instructor and student being at the same physical location. "Virtual-schooling" includes without limitation instruction provided by full-time, online virtual schools.

From April 1, 2013 through April 1, 2014, there is a moratorium on the establishment of charter schools with virtual-schooling components in school districts other than a school district organized under Article 34 of this Code. This moratorium does not apply to a charter school with virtual-schooling components existing or approved prior to April 1, 2013 or to the renewal of the charter of a charter school with virtual-schooling components already approved prior to April 1, 2013.

On or before March 1, 2014, the Commission shall submit to the General Assembly a report on the effect of virtual-schooling, including without limitation the effect on student performance, the costs associated with virtual-schooling, and issues with oversight. The report shall include policy recommendations for virtual-schooling.

(c) A charter school shall be administered and governed by its board of directors or other governing body in the manner provided in its charter. The governing body of a charter school

shall be subject to the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act.

(d) A charter school shall comply with all applicable health and safety requirements applicable to public schools under the laws of the State of Illinois.

(e) Except as otherwise provided in the School Code, a charter school shall not charge tuition; provided that a charter school may charge reasonable fees for textbooks, instructional materials, and student activities.

(f) A charter school shall be responsible for the management and operation of its fiscal affairs including, but not limited to, the preparation of its budget. An audit of each charter school's finances shall be conducted annually by an outside, independent contractor retained by the charter school. Annually, by December 1, every charter school must submit to the State Board a copy of its audit and a copy of the Form 990 the charter school filed that year with the federal Internal Revenue Service.

(g) A charter school shall comply with all provisions of this Article, the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, and its charter. A charter school is exempt from all other State laws and regulations in the School Code governing public schools and local school board policies, except the following:

(1) Sections 10-21.9 and 34-18.5 of the School Code regarding criminal history records checks and checks of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and Statewide Murderer and

Violent Offender Against Youth Database of applicants for employment;

(2) Sections 24-24 and 34-84A of the School Code regarding discipline of students;

(3) The Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act;

(4) Section 108.75 of the General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986 regarding indemnification of officers, directors, employees, and agents;

(5) The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act;

(6) The Illinois School Student Records Act;

(7) Section 10-17a of the School Code regarding school report cards; and

(8) The P-20 Longitudinal Education Data System Act.

The change made by Public Act 96-104 to this subsection (g) is declaratory of existing law.

(h) A charter school may negotiate and contract with a school district, the governing body of a State college or university or public community college, or any other public or for-profit or nonprofit private entity for: (i) the use of a school building and grounds or any other real property or facilities that the charter school desires to use or convert for use as a charter school site, (ii) the operation and maintenance thereof, and (iii) the provision of any service, activity, or undertaking that the charter school is required to perform in order to carry out the terms of its charter.

However, a charter school that is established on or after the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and that operates in a city having a population exceeding 500,000 may not contract with a for-profit entity to manage or operate the school during the period that commences on the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 93rd General Assembly and concludes at the end of the 2004-2005 school year. Except as provided in subsection (i) of this Section, a school district may charge a charter school reasonable rent for the use of the district's buildings, grounds, and facilities. Any services for which a charter school contracts with a school district shall be provided by the district at cost. Any services for which a charter school contracts with a local school board or with the governing body of a State college or university or public community college shall be provided by the public entity at cost.

(i) In no event shall a charter school that is established by converting an existing school or attendance center to charter school status be required to pay rent for space that is deemed available, as negotiated and provided in the charter agreement, in school district facilities. However, all other costs for the operation and maintenance of school district facilities that are used by the charter school shall be subject to negotiation between the charter school and the local school board and shall be set forth in the charter.

(j) A charter school may limit student enrollment by age or

grade level.

(k) If the charter school is approved by the Commission, then the Commission charter school is its own local education agency.

(Source: P.A. 97-152, eff. 7-20-11; 97-154, eff. 1-1-12; 97-813, eff. 7-13-12; 98-16, eff. 5-24-13.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-6.5)

Sec. 27A-6.5. Charter school referendum.

(a) No charter shall go into effect ~~be approved~~ under this Section that would convert any existing private, parochial, or non-public school to a charter school or whose proposal has not been certified by the State Board.

(b) A local school board shall, whenever petitioned to do so by 5% or more of the voters of a school district or districts identified in a charter school proposal, order submitted to the voters thereof at a regularly scheduled election the question of whether a new charter school shall be established, which proposal has been found ~~certified~~ by the Commission ~~State Board~~ to be in compliance with the provisions of this Article, and the secretary shall certify the proposition to the proper election authorities for submission in accordance with the general election law. The proposition shall be in substantially the following form:

"FOR the establishment of (name of proposed charter school) under charter school proposal (charter school

proposal number).

AGAINST the establishment of (name of proposed charter school) under charter school proposal (charter school proposal number)".

(c) Before circulating a petition to submit the question of whether to establish a charter school to the voters under subsection (b) of this Section, the governing body of a proposed charter school that desires to establish a new charter school by referendum shall submit the charter school proposal to the Commission ~~State Board~~ in the form of a proposed contract to be entered into between the Commission ~~State Board~~ and the governing body of the proposed charter school, ~~as provided under Section 27A-6,~~ together with written notice of the intent to have a new charter school established by referendum. The contract shall comply with the provisions of this Article.

If the Commission ~~State Board~~ finds that the proposed contract complies with the provisions of this Article, it shall immediately ~~certify that the proposed contract complies with the provisions of this Article and~~ direct the local school board to notify the proper election authorities that the question of whether to establish a new charter school shall be submitted for referendum.

(d) If the Commission ~~State Board~~ finds that the proposal fails to comply with the provisions of this Article, it shall ~~refuse to certify the proposal and~~ provide written explanation,

detailing its reasons for refusal, to the local school board and to the individuals or organizations submitting the proposal. The Commission ~~State Board~~ shall also notify the local school board and the individuals or organizations submitting the proposal that the proposal may be amended and resubmitted under the same provisions required for an original submission.

(e) If a majority of the votes cast upon the proposition in each school district designated in the charter school proposal is in favor of establishing a charter school, the local school board shall notify the State Board and the Commission of the passage of the proposition in favor of establishing a charter school and the Commission ~~State Board~~ shall approve the charter within 7 days after the State Board of Elections has certified that a majority of the votes cast upon the proposition is in favor of establishing a charter school. The Commission ~~State Board~~ shall be the chartering entity for charter schools established by referendum under this Section.

(f) The State Board shall determine whether the charter proposal approved by the Commission is consistent with the provisions of this Article and, if the approved proposal complies, certify the proposal pursuant to this Article.

(Source: P.A. 91-407, eff. 8-3-99.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-7)

Sec. 27A-7. Charter submission.

(a) A proposal to establish a charter school shall be submitted to ~~the State Board and~~ the local school board and the State Board for certification under Section 27A-6 of this Code in the form of a proposed contract entered into between the local school board and the governing body of a proposed charter school. The charter school proposal ~~as submitted to the State Board~~ shall include:

(1) The name of the proposed charter school, which must include the words "Charter School".

(2) The age or grade range, areas of focus, minimum and maximum numbers of pupils to be enrolled in the charter school, and any other admission criteria that would be legal if used by a school district.

(3) A description of and address for the physical plant in which the charter school will be located; provided that nothing in the Article shall be deemed to justify delaying or withholding favorable action on or approval of a charter school proposal because the building or buildings in which the charter school is to be located have not been acquired or rented at the time a charter school proposal is submitted or approved or a charter school contract is entered into or submitted for certification or certified, so long as the proposal or submission identifies and names at least 2 sites that are potentially available as a charter school facility by the time the charter school is to open.

(4) The mission statement of the charter school, which must be consistent with the General Assembly's declared purposes; provided that nothing in this Article shall be construed to require that, in order to receive favorable consideration and approval, a charter school proposal demonstrate unequivocally that the charter school will be able to meet each of those declared purposes, it being the intention of the Charter Schools Law that those purposes be recognized as goals that charter schools must aspire to attain.

(5) The goals, objectives, and pupil performance standards to be achieved by the charter school.

(6) In the case of a proposal to establish a charter school by converting an existing public school or attendance center to charter school status, evidence that the proposed formation of the charter school has received the approval of certified teachers, parents and guardians, and, if applicable, a local school council as provided in subsection (b) of Section 27A-8.

(7) A description of the charter school's educational program, pupil performance standards, curriculum, school year, school days, and hours of operation.

(8) A description of the charter school's plan for evaluating pupil performance, the types of assessments that will be used to measure pupil progress towards achievement of the school's pupil performance standards,

the timeline for achievement of those standards, and the procedures for taking corrective action in the event that pupil performance at the charter school falls below those standards.

(9) Evidence that the terms of the charter as proposed are economically sound for both the charter school and the school district, a proposed budget for the term of the charter, a description of the manner in which an annual audit of the financial and administrative operations of the charter school, including any services provided by the school district, are to be conducted, and a plan for the displacement of pupils, teachers, and other employees who will not attend or be employed in the charter school.

(10) A description of the governance and operation of the charter school, including the nature and extent of parental, professional educator, and community involvement in the governance and operation of the charter school.

(11) An explanation of the relationship that will exist between the charter school and its employees, including evidence that the terms and conditions of employment have been addressed with affected employees and their recognized representative, if any. However, a bargaining unit of charter school employees shall be separate and distinct from any bargaining units formed from employees of a school district in which the charter school is located.

(12) An agreement between the parties regarding their

respective legal liability and applicable insurance coverage.

(13) A description of how the charter school plans to meet the transportation needs of its pupils, and a plan for addressing the transportation needs of low-income and at-risk pupils.

(14) The proposed effective date and term of the charter; provided that the first day of the first academic year and the first day of the fiscal year shall be no earlier than August 15 and no later than September 15 of a calendar year.

(15) Any other information reasonably required by the State Board of Education.

(b) A proposal to establish a charter school may be initiated by individuals or organizations that will have majority representation on the board of directors or other governing body of the corporation or other discrete legal entity that is to be established to operate the proposed charter school, by a board of education or an intergovernmental agreement between or among boards of education, or by the board of directors or other governing body of a discrete legal entity already existing or established to operate the proposed charter school. The individuals or organizations referred to in this subsection may be school teachers, school administrators, local school councils, colleges or universities or their faculty members, public community colleges or their

instructors or other representatives, corporations, or other entities or their representatives. The proposal shall be submitted to the local school board for consideration and, if appropriate, for development of a proposed contract to be submitted to the State Board for certification under Section 27A-6.

(c) The local school board may not without the consent of the governing body of the charter school condition its approval of a charter school proposal on acceptance of an agreement to operate under State laws and regulations and local school board policies from which the charter school is otherwise exempted under this Article.

(Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98; 91-405, eff. 8-3-99.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-9)

Sec. 27A-9. Term of charter; renewal.

(a) A charter may be granted for a period not less than 5 and not more than 10 school years. A charter may be renewed in incremental periods not to exceed 5 school years.

(b) A charter school renewal proposal submitted to the local school board or the Commission, as the chartering entity, shall contain:

(1) A report on the progress of the charter school in achieving the goals, objectives, pupil performance standards, content standards, and other terms of the initial approved charter proposal; and

(2) A financial statement that discloses the costs of administration, instruction, and other spending categories for the charter school that is understandable to the general public and that will allow comparison of those costs to other schools or other comparable organizations, in a format required by the State Board.

(c) A charter may be revoked or not renewed if the local school board or the Commission, as the chartering entity, clearly demonstrates that the charter school did any of the following, or otherwise failed to comply with the requirements of this law:

(1) Committed a material violation of any of the conditions, standards, or procedures set forth in the charter.

(2) Failed to meet or make reasonable progress toward achievement of the content standards or pupil performance standards identified in the charter.

(3) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management.

(4) Violated any provision of law from which the charter school was not exempted.

In the case of revocation, the local school board or the Commission, as the chartering entity, shall notify the charter school in writing of the reason why the charter is subject to revocation. The charter school shall submit a written plan to the local school board or the Commission, whichever is

applicable, to rectify the problem. The plan shall include a timeline for implementation, which shall not exceed 2 years or the date of the charter's expiration, whichever is earlier. If the local school board or the Commission, as the chartering entity, finds that the charter school has failed to implement the plan of remediation and adhere to the timeline, then the chartering entity shall revoke the charter. Except in situations of an emergency where the health, safety, or education of the charter school's students is at risk, the revocation shall take place at the end of a school year. Nothing in this amendatory Act of the 96th General Assembly shall be construed to prohibit an implementation timetable that is less than 2 years in duration.

(d) (Blank).

(e) Notice of a local school board's decision to deny, revoke or not to renew a charter shall be provided to the Commission and the State Board. The Commission may reverse a local board's decision if the Commission finds that the charter school or charter school proposal (i) is in compliance with this Article, and (ii) is in the best interests of the students it is designed to serve. The Commission ~~State Board~~ may condition the granting of an appeal on the acceptance by the charter school of funding in an amount less than that requested in the proposal submitted to the local school board. Final decisions of the Commission shall be subject to judicial review under the Administrative Review Law.

(f) Notwithstanding other provisions of this Article, if the Commission on appeal reverses a local board's decision or if a charter school is approved by referendum, the Commission shall act as the authorized chartering entity for the charter school. The Commission shall approve the charter and shall perform all functions under this Article otherwise performed by the local school board. The State Board shall determine whether the charter proposal approved by the Commission is consistent with the provisions of this Article and, if the approved proposal complies, certify the proposal pursuant to this Article. The State Board shall report the aggregate number of charter school pupils resident in a school district to that district and shall notify the district of the amount of funding to be paid by the State Board ~~Commission~~ to the charter school enrolling such students. The Commission shall require the charter school to maintain accurate records of daily attendance that shall be deemed sufficient to file claims under Section 18-8.05 notwithstanding any other requirements of that Section regarding hours of instruction and teacher certification. The State Board shall withhold from funds otherwise due the district the funds authorized by this Article to be paid to the charter school and shall pay such amounts to the charter school.

(g) For charter schools authorized by the Commission, the Commission shall quarterly certify to the State Board the student enrollment for each of its charter schools.

(h) For charter schools authorized by the Commission, the State Board shall pay directly to a charter school any federal or State aid attributable to a student with a disability attending the school.

(Source: P.A. 96-105, eff. 7-30-09; 97-152, eff. 7-20-11.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-11)

Sec. 27A-11. Local financing.

(a) For purposes of the School Code, pupils enrolled in a charter school shall be included in the pupil enrollment of the school district within which the pupil resides. Each charter school (i) shall determine the school district in which each pupil who is enrolled in the charter school resides, (ii) shall report the aggregate number of pupils resident of a school district who are enrolled in the charter school to the school district in which those pupils reside, and (iii) shall maintain accurate records of daily attendance that shall be deemed sufficient to file claims under Section 18-8 notwithstanding any other requirements of that Section regarding hours of instruction and teacher certification.

(b) Except for a charter school established by referendum under Section 27A-6.5, as part of a charter school contract, the charter school and the local school board shall agree on funding and any services to be provided by the school district to the charter school. Agreed funding that a charter school is to receive from the local school board for a school year shall

be paid in equal quarterly installments with the payment of the installment for the first quarter being made not later than July 1, unless the charter establishes a different payment schedule.

All services centrally or otherwise provided by the school district including, but not limited to, rent, food services, custodial services, maintenance, curriculum, media services, libraries, transportation, and warehousing shall be subject to negotiation between a charter school and the local school board and paid for out of the revenues negotiated pursuant to this subsection (b); provided that the local school board shall not attempt, by negotiation or otherwise, to obligate a charter school to provide pupil transportation for pupils for whom a district is not required to provide transportation under the criteria set forth in subsection (a) (13) of Section 27A-7.

In no event shall the funding be less than 75% or more than 125% of the school district's per capita student tuition multiplied by the number of students residing in the district who are enrolled in the charter school.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that funding and service agreements under this subsection (b) shall be neither a financial incentive nor a financial disincentive to the establishment of a charter school.

The charter school may set and collect reasonable fees. Fees collected from students enrolled at a charter school shall be retained by the charter school.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this Section, the proportionate share of State and federal resources generated by students with disabilities or staff serving them shall be directed to charter schools enrolling those students by their school districts or administrative units. The proportionate share of moneys generated under other federal or State categorical aid programs shall be directed to charter schools serving students eligible for that aid.

(d) The governing body of a charter school is authorized to accept gifts, donations, or grants of any kind made to the charter school and to expend or use gifts, donations, or grants in accordance with the conditions prescribed by the donor; however, a gift, donation, or grant may not be accepted by the governing body if it is subject to any condition contrary to applicable law or contrary to the terms of the contract between the charter school and the local school board. Charter schools shall be encouraged to solicit and utilize community volunteer speakers and other instructional resources when providing instruction on the Holocaust and other historical events.

(e) (Blank).

(f) The Commission ~~State Board~~ shall provide technical assistance to persons and groups preparing or revising charter applications.

(g) At the non-renewal or revocation of its charter, each charter school shall refund to the local board of education all unspent funds.

(h) A charter school is authorized to incur temporary, short term debt to pay operating expenses in anticipation of receipt of funds from the local school board.

(Source: P.A. 90-548, eff. 1-1-98; 90-757, eff. 8-14-98; 91-407, eff. 8-3-99.)

(105 ILCS 5/27A-11.5)

Sec. 27A-11.5. State financing. The State Board of Education shall make the following funds available to school districts and charter schools:

(1) From a separate appropriation made to the State Board for purposes of this subdivision (1), the State Board shall make transition impact aid available to school districts that approve a new charter school or that have funds withheld by the State Board to fund a new charter school that is chartered by the Commission ~~State Board~~. The amount of the aid shall equal 90% of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the first year of its initial charter term, 65% of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the second year of its initial term, and 35% of the per capita funding paid to the charter school during the third year of its initial term. This transition impact aid shall be paid to the local school board in equal quarterly installments, with the payment of the installment for the first quarter being made by August 1st immediately preceding the first, second, and third

years of the initial term. The district shall file an application for this aid with the State Board in a format designated by the State Board. If the appropriation is insufficient in any year to pay all approved claims, the impact aid shall be prorated. However, for fiscal year 2004, the State Board of Education shall pay approved claims only for charter schools with a valid charter granted prior to June 1, 2003. If any funds remain after these claims have been paid, then the State Board of Education may pay all other approved claims on a pro rata basis. Transition impact aid shall be paid beginning in the 1999-2000 school year for charter schools that are in the first, second, or third year of their initial term. Transition impact aid shall not be paid for any charter school that is proposed and created by one or more boards of education, as authorized under the provisions of Public Act 91-405.

(2) From a separate appropriation made for the purpose of this subdivision (2), the State Board shall make grants to charter schools to pay their start-up costs of acquiring educational materials and supplies, textbooks, electronic textbooks and the technological equipment necessary to gain access to and use electronic textbooks, furniture, and other equipment needed during their initial term. The State Board shall annually establish the time and manner of application for these grants, which shall not exceed \$250

per student enrolled in the charter school.

(3) The Charter Schools Revolving Loan Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Federal funds, such other funds as may be made available for costs associated with the establishment of charter schools in Illinois, and amounts repaid by charter schools that have received a loan from the Charter Schools Revolving Loan Fund shall be deposited into the Charter Schools Revolving Loan Fund, and the moneys in the Charter Schools Revolving Loan Fund shall be appropriated to the State Board and used to provide interest-free loans to charter schools. These funds shall be used to pay start-up costs of acquiring educational materials and supplies, textbooks, electronic textbooks and the technological equipment necessary to gain access to and use electronic textbooks, furniture, and other equipment needed in the initial term of the charter school and for acquiring and remodeling a suitable physical plant, within the initial term of the charter school. Loans shall be limited to one loan per charter school and shall not exceed \$250 per student enrolled in the charter school. A loan shall be repaid by the end of the initial term of the charter school. The State Board may deduct amounts necessary to repay the loan from funds due to the charter school or may require that the local school board that authorized the charter school deduct such amounts from funds due the charter school and remit these amounts to the

State Board, provided that the local school board shall not be responsible for repayment of the loan. The State Board may use up to 3% of the appropriation to contract with a non-profit entity to administer the loan program.

(4) A charter school may apply for and receive, subject to the same restrictions applicable to school districts, any grant administered by the State Board that is available for school districts.

(Source: P.A. 96-1403, eff. 7-29-10.)

Section 10. The Vocational Education Act is amended by changing Section 2.1 as follows:

(105 ILCS 435/2.1) (from Ch. 122, par. 697.1)

Sec. 2.1. Gender Equity Advisory Committee.

(a) The Superintendent of the State Board of Education shall appoint a Gender Equity Advisory Committee of at least 9 members to advise and consult with the State Board of Education and the gender equity coordinator in all aspects relating to ensuring that all students have equal educational opportunities to pursue high wage, high skill occupations leading to economic self-sufficiency.

(b) Membership shall include without limitation one regional gender equity coordinator, 2 State Board of Education employees, an appointee of the Director of Labor ~~the Department of Labor's Displaced Homemaker Program Manager~~, and 5 citizen

appointees who have expertise in one or more of the following areas: nontraditional training and placement, service delivery to single parents, service delivery to displaced homemakers, service delivery to female teens, business and industry experience, and Education-to-Careers experience. Membership also may include employees from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Human Services, and the Illinois Community College Board who have expertise in one or more of the areas listed in this subsection (b) for the citizen appointees. Appointments shall be made taking into consideration expertise of services provided in secondary, postsecondary and community based programs.

(c) Members shall initially be appointed to one year terms commencing in January 1, 1990, and thereafter to two year terms commencing on January 1 of each odd numbered year. Vacancies shall be filled as prescribed in subsection (b) for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(d) Each newly appointed committee shall elect a Chair and Secretary from its members. Members shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The Committee shall meet at least bi-annually and at other times at the call of the Chair or at the request of the gender equity coordinator.

(Source: P.A. 94-793, eff. 5-19-06.)

(105 ILCS 5/18-8.1 rep.)

Section 15. The School Code is amended by repealing Sections 2-3.70 and 18-8.1.

(105 ILCS 215/Act rep.)

Section 20. The Chicago Community Schools Study Commission Act is repealed.

(105 ILCS 225/Act rep.)

Section 25. The Education Cost-Effectiveness Agenda Act is repealed.

(105 ILCS 415/Act rep.)

Section 30. The Conservation Education Act is repealed.

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1, 2014.

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Statutes amended in order of appearance

105 ILCS 5/2-3.25g	from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25g
105 ILCS 5/2-3.32	from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.32
105 ILCS 5/2-3.47	from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.47
105 ILCS 5/10-22.5a	from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.5a
105 ILCS 5/14-7.03	from Ch. 122, par. 14-7.03
105 ILCS 5/18-4.5	
105 ILCS 5/18-6	from Ch. 122, par. 18-6
105 ILCS 5/27A-5	
105 ILCS 5/27A-6.5	
105 ILCS 5/27A-7	
105 ILCS 5/27A-9	
105 ILCS 5/27A-11	
105 ILCS 5/27A-11.5	
105 ILCS 435/2.1	from Ch. 122, par. 697.1
105 ILCS 5/2-3.70 rep.	
105 ILCS 5/18-8.1 rep.	
105 ILCS 215/Act rep.	
105 ILCS 225/Act rep.	
105 ILCS 415/Act rep.	