

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 Retention of Illinois Students and Equity  
5 Act is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 986/15)

7 Sec. 15. Equitable eligibility for financial aid and  
8 benefits.

9 (a) A student who is an Illinois resident and who is not  
10 otherwise eligible for federal financial aid, including, but  
11 not limited to, a transgender student who is disqualified for  
12 failure to register for selective service or a noncitizen  
13 student who has not obtained lawful permanent residence, shall  
14 be eligible for ~~State~~ financial aid and benefits as described  
15 in subsection (b).

16 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the  
17 contrary, a student who is an Illinois resident (i) is  
18 eligible to apply or receive consideration for any student aid  
19 or benefit funded or administered by the State or ~~7~~ any State  
20 agency, offered by a unit of local government, or administered  
21 by any public institution of higher learning, including, but  
22 not limited to, scholarships, grants, awards, stipends, room  
23 and board assistance, tuition waivers, or other financial or

1 in-kind assistance and (ii) to ensure equity, success, and the  
2 retention of Illinois residents, may not be subject to any  
3 caps on grant assistance available under the Monetary Award  
4 Program other than those required by State law.

5 (c) The eligibility requirements under this Section for  
6 any student aid or benefit funded or administered by the State  
7 or offered by a unit of local government shall be interpreted  
8 to promote the broadest eligibility for students who are  
9 Illinois residents in accordance with State law or policy.

10 (d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed as  
11 modifying any eligibility requirements regarding academic  
12 standing or personal or household income for any State  
13 financial aid program.

14 (e) The General Assembly finds and declares that this  
15 Section is a State law within the meaning of subsection (d) of  
16 Section 1621 of Title 8 of the United States Code.

17 (Source: P.A. 101-21, eff. 1-1-20.)