

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 School Code is amended by changing Section  
5 2-3.169 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.169)

7 Sec. 2-3.169. State Global Scholar Certification.

8 (a) The State Global Scholar Certification Program is  
9 established to recognize ~~recognized~~ public and nonpublic high  
10 school graduates who have attained global competence. State  
11 Global Scholar Certification shall be awarded beginning with  
12 the 2017-2018 school year. School district or nonpublic school  
13 participation in this certification is voluntary.

14 (b) The purposes of State Global Scholar Certification are  
15 as follows:

16 (1) To recognize the value of a global education.

17 (2) To certify attainment of global competence.

18 (3) To provide employers with a method of identifying  
19 globally competent employees.

20 (4) To provide colleges and universities with an  
21 additional method to recognize applicants seeking  
22 admission.

23 (5) To prepare students with 21st century skills.

1           (6) To encourage the development of a globally ready  
2           workforce in the STEM (science, technology, engineering,  
3           and mathematics), manufacturing, agriculture, and service  
4           sectors.

5           (c) State Global Scholar Certification confirms attainment  
6           of global competence, sufficient for meaningful use in college  
7           and a career, by a graduating public or nonpublic high school  
8           student.

9           (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as  
10          may be necessary to establish the criteria that students must  
11          achieve to earn State Global Scholar Certification, which  
12          shall minimally include attainment of 6 globally focused  
13          courses, service learning experiences, global collaboration or  
14          dialogue, and passage of a capstone project demonstrating  
15          global competency, as approved by the participating school  
16          district or nonpublic school for this purpose.

17          (e) The State Board of Education shall do both of the  
18          following:

19                 (1) Prepare and deliver to participating school  
20                 districts or nonpublic schools an appropriate mechanism  
21                 for designating State Global Scholar Certification on the  
22                 diploma and transcript of a student indicating that the  
23                 student has been awarded State Global Scholar  
24                 Certification by the State Board of Education.

25                 (2) Provide other information the State Board of  
26                 Education deems necessary for school districts or

1 nonpublic schools to successfully participate in the  
2 certification.

3 (f) A school district or nonpublic school that  
4 participates in certification under this Section shall do both  
5 of the following:

6 (1) Maintain appropriate records in order to identify  
7 students who have earned State Global Scholar  
8 Certification.

9 (2) Make the appropriate designation on the diploma  
10 and transcript of each student who earns State Global  
11 Scholar Certification.

12 (g) No fee may be charged to a student to receive the  
13 designation pursuant to the Section. Notwithstanding this  
14 prohibition, costs may be incurred by the student in  
15 demonstrating proficiency.

16 (h) The State Board of Education shall adopt such rules as  
17 may be necessary to provide students attending schools that do  
18 not offer State Global Scholar Certification the opportunity  
19 to earn State Global Scholar Certification remotely beginning  
20 with the 2026-2027 school year. These rules shall include, but  
21 are not limited to, a list of all school courses and course  
22 codes derived from the State Board of Education's Illinois  
23 State Course Catalog and Illinois Virtual Course Catalog that  
24 are designated as and qualify as globally focused coursework.

25 If the provider of the online course, micro-credential, or  
26 digital badge determines and can demonstrate that a student

1 meets all of the criteria required to earn State Global  
2 Scholar Certification, then the school district or nonpublic  
3 school shall designate that the student has earned State  
4 Global Scholar Certification on the student's diploma and  
5 transcript.

6 A school district or nonpublic school shall provide, upon  
7 the request of a student, evidence to the student that the  
8 student has completed at least 6 globally focused courses  
9 required to earn State Global Scholar Certification for the  
10 student to submit to the provider of the online course.

11 A student enrolled in a school district or nonpublic  
12 school that awarded State Global Scholar Certification prior  
13 to the 2026-2027 school year and offered a course to complete  
14 the capstone project requirement prior to the 2026-2027 school  
15 year may not earn State Global Scholar Certification remotely  
16 under this subsection (h).

17 (Source: P.A. 103-352, eff. 7-28-23; 103-979, eff. 1-1-25;  
18 revised 11-26-24.)