

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.)