

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****HB3522**

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Katie Stuart

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

## New Act

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a

105 ILCS 5/34-18

from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.5a

from Ch. 122, par. 34-18

Creates the Public University Direct Admission Program Act. Provides that, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the State Board of Education, shall establish and administer a direct admission program. Requires each public university in the direct admission program to identify and provide its grade point average standards for general admission for first time admission and for transfer students to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission by March 1 of each year. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall use data collected from school districts to determine which students meet the standards for general admission and provide the data to the Board of Higher Education. Provides that, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the State Board of Education, shall develop, in consultation with the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a preselection outreach campaign to encourage qualifying State high school juniors and seniors to apply to the University of Illinois at Chicago or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Requires the Board of Higher Education to submit a report on the direct admission program and the preselection outreach campaign to the Governor and General Assembly by August 1, 2029 and each August 1 thereafter. Amends the School Code. Requires a school board to provide access to high school student directory information and each student's email address and grade point average to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and each public institution of higher education for the purpose of informing students of educational and career opportunities.

LRB104 11387 LNS 21475 b

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Public  
5 University Direct Admission Program Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) Illinois has a strong system of public higher  
9 education, including public universities and community  
10 colleges across the State.

11 (2) The Illinois economy thrives when Illinois  
12 students choose to pursue postsecondary education at  
13 Illinois institutions of higher education.

14 (3) According to the National Bureau of Economic  
15 Research, two-thirds of graduates stay and work in the  
16 state in which they matriculated.

17 (4) Students who have been historically underserved,  
18 such as students who are the first in their families to go  
19 to college, students who come from low-income families or  
20 communities, students of color, and students from rural  
21 communities, among others, often face the greatest  
22 barriers to accessing higher education, in part because of  
23 a lack of information.

1           (5) Every eligible high school junior and senior in  
2           Illinois should receive an offer to an Illinois  
3           institution of higher education, including public  
4           universities and community colleges.

5           (6) Every eligible public community college student  
6           seeking a transfer pathway should receive an offer to a  
7           public university in Illinois.

8           (7) Illinois can and should develop the tools and  
9           technology to dramatically simplify the public university  
10          and community college application and admission process  
11          for Illinois students.

12          Section 10. Definition. In this Act, "public university"  
13          means the University of Illinois at Springfield, Southern  
14          Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern  
15          Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois  
16          State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern  
17          Illinois University, Western Illinois University, or any other  
18          public university established or authorized by the General  
19          Assembly after the effective date of this Act.

20          Section 15. Direct admission program.

21          (a) Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board  
22          of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois  
23          Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance  
24          Commission, and the State Board of Education, shall establish

1 and administer a direct admission program. Consistent with the  
2 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and  
3 the School Code, the direct admission program shall  
4 automatically offer general admission into a public university  
5 or community college to qualified high school seniors in this  
6 State and to public community college students in this State  
7 who qualify to transfer to a public university.

8 (b) Each public university in the direct admission program  
9 shall identify and provide its grade point average standards  
10 for general admission for first time admission and for  
11 transfer students to the Illinois Student Assistance  
12 Commission by March 1 of each year. The Illinois Student  
13 Assistance Commission in collaboration with the Board of  
14 Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board  
15 shall determine which students meet the standards for general  
16 admission for each public university in the direct admission  
17 program, and that information shall be made available to the  
18 Board of Higher Education. The Board of Higher Education shall  
19 notify the student and to each public university. Each public  
20 university may also notify qualified students.

21 (c) Beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, the  
22 Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall use data  
23 collected from school districts pursuant to Section 10-20.5a  
24 and paragraph 16 of Section 34-18 paragraph 16 of the School  
25 Code for purposes of subsection (b) to determine which  
26 students meet the standards for general admission and provide

1 the data to the Board of Higher Education.

2 (d) As all public community colleges in this State are  
3 open-access institutions, student directory information shall  
4 be used to identify a student's local public community  
5 college, and the community college shall be included on all  
6 correspondence to a student indicating the student's  
7 acceptance to the community college alongside those public  
8 universities that offer the student direct admission, pursuant  
9 to subsection (b). The public community college may also  
10 notify students within their district directly. Under the  
11 direct admission program, a public community college shall  
12 offer admission to all students who are residents of the  
13 community college district. Under the direct admission  
14 program, a public university shall offer general admission to  
15 any high school senior in this State who meets the public  
16 university's standards for admission, as identified under  
17 subsection (b), and to any public community college transfer  
18 student transferring to a public university who meets all of  
19 the following requirements:

20 (1) Is enrolled at a public community college in this  
21 State.

22 (2) Has earned a minimum of 30 graded, transferable  
23 semester hours.

24 (3) Meets the minimum grade point average requirement  
25 as set by the public university as reported to Board of  
26 Higher Education.

1 By July 1 of each year, community college districts shall  
2 provide on an equal basis and consistent with the federal  
3 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, access to  
4 community college student directory information and each  
5 student's email address and grade point average to the  
6 Illinois Community College Board for the purpose of informing  
7 students of educational and career opportunities. Prior to  
8 transmitting the student's directory information, email  
9 address, and grade point average, each community college  
10 district will receive written consent of the student if they  
11 are 18 years of age or older or the student's parent or  
12 guardian if the student is younger than 18 years of age.  
13 Community college students are encouraged to consult the  
14 Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core  
15 Curriculum course list and other resources at the State and  
16 university level to determine course transferability for  
17 purposes of paragraph (2). Community college students who have  
18 not completed a degree prior to transfer shall be notified by  
19 the public university in which they are enrolled to consult  
20 the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to determine if  
21 they are eligible for reverse transfer of credits for the  
22 purpose of obtaining an associate degree.

23 (e) In establishing the direct admission program, the  
24 Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois  
25 Community College Board, shall specifically evaluate the  
26 impact on enrollment of low-income students, students of

1 color, first generation college students, students from  
2 populations underserved in higher education, and students from  
3 rural areas of this State.

4 (f) The direct admission program may gather data and  
5 develop the technology to automatically notify high school  
6 seniors in this State and public community college transfer  
7 students of the direct admission program for the public  
8 universities for which those students qualify, based on the  
9 standards submitted under subsection (b) or, in the case of  
10 public community colleges, based on the community college  
11 district where those students reside.

12 (g) The direct admission program may use the services of a  
13 statewide student application portal and aggregator to provide  
14 the automatic notification in subsection (f). The notification  
15 shall include the student's local public community college,  
16 consistent with the requirements in subsection (b).

17 (h) The direct admission program shall provide admitted  
18 high school seniors in this State and public community college  
19 transfer students with the website address for the Illinois  
20 Student Assistance Commission to find information regarding  
21 State grant programs, support for financial aid application  
22 completion, scholarship searches, and other financial  
23 aid-related information and shall encourage students to  
24 determine their eligibility for financial aid based on the  
25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or, if applicable, an  
26 application for State financial aid.

1           (i) A public university or community college may verify  
2     applicant information, including transcripts, Illinois  
3     residency, and high school graduation in determining  
4     eligibility for enrollment. A public university or community  
5     college may revoke admission if an applicant does not meet the  
6     public university's or community college's direct admission  
7     criteria as specified in this Act before enrolling at the  
8     public university or community college.

9           The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community  
10    College Board shall adopt joint rules to develop procedures  
11    for the implementation of this Section.

12           Section 20. Preselection outreach campaign. Beginning with  
13    the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in  
14    collaboration with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission  
15    and the State Board of Education, shall develop, in  
16    consultation with the University of Illinois at Chicago and  
17    the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a preselection  
18    outreach campaign to encourage qualifying State high school  
19    juniors and seniors to apply to the University of Illinois at  
20    Chicago or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.  
21    Preselection qualifying students shall be identified and  
22    encouraged to apply in the following manner:

23           (1) The University of Illinois at Chicago and the  
24           University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shall determine  
25           the criteria by which students shall be identified for the



1        preselection campaign, in consultation with the  
2        universities' faculty and faculty senates. The University  
3        of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at  
4        Urbana-Champaign shall provide the preselection criteria  
5        to the Board of Higher Education, as long as the  
6        preselection criteria is based on data available to the  
7        Board of Higher Education, by March 1 each year.

8            (2) The University of Illinois at Chicago and the  
9        University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shall provide  
10       the Board of Higher Education with the content of the  
11       communication to be shared with students describing how to  
12       request information on how to apply. The Board of Higher  
13       Education shall use the same portal or mechanisms for this  
14       communication as used for offers of direct admission under  
15       Section 15.

16           (3) The Board of Higher Education, in collaboration  
17       with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the  
18       State Board of Education, shall provide the University of  
19       Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at  
20       Urbana-Champaign with the contact information of the  
21       students who meet the eligibility criteria defined by the  
22       University of Illinois at Chicago or the University of  
23       Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

24           (4) The Board of Higher Education may adopt any rules  
25       necessary to administer this Section.

1           Section 25. Direct admission program and preselection  
2 outreach campaign report.

3           (a) The Board of Higher Education shall submit a report on  
4 the direct admission program and the preselection outreach  
5 campaign to the Governor and General Assembly by August 1,  
6 2029 and each August 1 thereafter. The report shall include,  
7 but is not limited to, information related to implementation  
8 of the direct admission program, the demographic and  
9 geographic data of students offered direct admission and the  
10 public university or community college to which direct  
11 admission was offered, the demographic and geographic data of  
12 students who qualified for preselection to the University of  
13 Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at  
14 Urbana-Champaign under Section 18, those who applied, and  
15 those who were offered admission, the demographic and  
16 geographic data of high school seniors and public community  
17 college transfer students who accepted direct admission and  
18 enrolled in the public university or public community college  
19 that offered that direct admission, changes in admissions and  
20 enrollment over time of high school seniors and public  
21 community college transfer students through the direct  
22 admission program, and recommendations to improve the direct  
23 admission program. The Board of Higher Education shall  
24 collaborate with the Illinois Community College Board, the  
25 State Board of Education, the Illinois Student Assistance  
26 Commission, and public universities to collect data necessary

1 to fulfill the reporting requirements of this Section.

2 (b) The Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with  
3 the Illinois Community College Board, shall adopt any rules  
4 necessary to administer this Section.

5 Section 30. The School Code is amended by changing  
6 Sections 2-3.64a-5, 10-20.5a, and 34-18 as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5)

8 Sec. 2-3.64a-5. State goals and assessment.

9 (a) For the assessment and accountability purposes of this  
10 Section, "students" includes those students enrolled in a  
11 public or State-operated elementary school, secondary school,  
12 or cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or  
13 board of control, a charter school operating in compliance  
14 with the Charter Schools Law, a school operated by a regional  
15 office of education under Section 13A-3 of this Code, or a  
16 public school administered by a local public agency or the  
17 Department of Human Services.

18 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish the  
19 academic standards that are to be applicable to students who  
20 are subject to State assessments under this Section. The State  
21 Board of Education shall not establish any such standards in  
22 final form without first providing opportunities for public  
23 participation and local input in the development of the final  
24 academic standards. Those opportunities shall include a

1 well-publicized period of public comment and opportunities to  
2 file written comments.

3 (c) Beginning no later than the 2014-2015 school year, the  
4 State Board of Education shall annually assess all students  
5 enrolled in grades 3 through 8 in English language arts and  
6 mathematics.

7 Beginning no later than the 2017-2018 school year, the  
8 State Board of Education shall annually assess all students in  
9 science at one grade in grades 3 through 5, at one grade in  
10 grades 6 through 8, and at one grade in grades 9 through 12.

11 The State Board of Education shall annually assess schools  
12 that operate a secondary education program, as defined in  
13 Section 22-22 of this Code, in English language arts and  
14 mathematics. The State Board of Education shall administer no  
15 more than 3 assessments, per student, of English language arts  
16 and mathematics for students in a secondary education program.  
17 One of these assessments shall be recognized by this State's  
18 public institutions of higher education, as defined in the  
19 Board of Higher Education Act, for the purpose of student  
20 application or admissions consideration. The assessment  
21 administered by the State Board of Education for the purpose  
22 of student application to or admissions consideration by  
23 institutions of higher education must be administered on a  
24 school day during regular student attendance hours, and  
25 student profile information collected by the assessment shall,  
26 if available, be made available to the State's public

1 institutions of higher education in a timely manner.

2 Students who do not take the State's final accountability  
3 assessment or its approved alternate assessment may not  
4 receive a regular high school diploma unless the student is  
5 exempted from taking the State assessments under subsection  
6 (d) of this Section because the student is enrolled in a  
7 program of adult and continuing education, as defined in the  
8 Adult Education Act, or the student is identified by the State  
9 Board of Education, through rules, as being exempt from the  
10 assessment.

11 The State Board of Education shall not assess students  
12 under this Section in subjects not required by this Section.

13 Districts shall inform their students of the timelines and  
14 procedures applicable to their participation in every yearly  
15 administration of the State assessments. The State Board of  
16 Education shall establish periods of time in each school year  
17 during which State assessments shall occur to meet the  
18 objectives of this Section.

19 The requirements of this subsection do not apply if the  
20 State Board of Education has received a waiver from the  
21 administration of assessments from the U.S. Department of  
22 Education.

23 (d) Every individualized educational program as described  
24 in Article 14 shall identify if the State assessment or  
25 components thereof require accommodation for the student. The  
26 State Board of Education shall develop rules governing the

1 administration of an alternate assessment that may be  
2 available to students for whom participation in this State's  
3 regular assessments is not appropriate, even with  
4 accommodations as allowed under this Section.

5 Students receiving special education services whose  
6 individualized educational programs identify them as eligible  
7 for the alternative State assessments nevertheless shall have  
8 the option of also taking this State's regular final  
9 accountability assessment, which shall be administered in  
10 accordance with the eligible accommodations appropriate for  
11 meeting these students' respective needs.

12 All students determined to be English learners shall  
13 participate in the State assessments. The scores of those  
14 students who have been enrolled in schools in the United  
15 States for less than 12 months may not be used for the purposes  
16 of accountability. Any student determined to be an English  
17 learner shall receive appropriate assessment accommodations,  
18 including language supports, which shall be established by  
19 rule. Approved assessment accommodations must be provided  
20 until the student's English language skills develop to the  
21 extent that the student is no longer considered to be an  
22 English learner, as demonstrated through a State-identified  
23 English language proficiency assessment.

24 (e) The results or scores of each assessment taken under  
25 this Section shall be made available to the parents of each  
26 student.

1        In each school year, the scores attained by a student on  
2        the final accountability assessment must be placed in the  
3        student's permanent record pursuant to rules that the State  
4        Board of Education shall adopt for that purpose in accordance  
5        with Section 3 of the Illinois School Student Records Act. In  
6        each school year, the scores attained by a student on the State  
7        assessments administered in grades 3 through 8 must be placed  
8        in the student's temporary record.

9        (f) All schools shall administer the State's academic  
10       assessment of English language proficiency to all children  
11       determined to be English learners.

12       (g) All schools in this State that are part of the sample  
13       drawn by the National Center for Education Statistics, in  
14       collaboration with their school districts and the State Board  
15       of Education, shall administer the academic assessments under  
16       the National Assessment of Educational Progress carried out  
17       under Section 411(b)(2) of the federal National Education  
18       Statistics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9010) if the U.S. Secretary  
19       of Education pays the costs of administering the assessments.

20       (h) (Blank).

21       (i) For the purposes of this subsection (i), "academically  
22       based assessments" means assessments consisting of questions  
23       and answers that are measurable and quantifiable to measure  
24       the knowledge, skills, and ability of students in the subject  
25       matters covered by the assessments. All assessments  
26       administered pursuant to this Section must be academically

1 based assessments. The scoring of academically based  
2 assessments shall be reliable, valid, and fair and shall meet  
3 the guidelines for assessment development and use prescribed  
4 by the American Psychological Association, the National  
5 Council on Measurement in Education, and the American  
6 Educational Research Association.

7 The State Board of Education shall review the use of all  
8 assessment item types in order to ensure that they are valid  
9 and reliable indicators of student performance aligned to the  
10 learning standards being assessed and that the development,  
11 administration, and scoring of these item types are  
12 justifiable in terms of cost.

13 (j) The State Superintendent of Education shall appoint a  
14 committee of no more than 21 members, consisting of parents,  
15 teachers, school administrators, school board members,  
16 assessment experts, regional superintendents of schools, and  
17 citizens, to review the State assessments administered by the  
18 State Board of Education. The Committee shall select one of  
19 its members as its chairperson. The Committee shall meet on an  
20 ongoing basis to review the content and design of the  
21 assessments (including whether the requirements of subsection  
22 (i) of this Section have been met), the time and money expended  
23 at the local and State levels to prepare for and administer the  
24 assessments, the collective results of the assessments as  
25 measured against the stated purpose of assessing student  
26 performance, and other issues involving the assessments



1 identified by the Committee. The Committee shall make periodic  
2 recommendations to the State Superintendent of Education and  
3 the General Assembly concerning the assessments.

4 (k) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to  
5 implement this Section.

6 (Source: P.A. 103-204, eff. 1-1-24.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.5a)

8 Sec. 10-20.5a. Access to high school campus.

9 (a) In this Section, "public institution of higher  
10 education" has the meaning given to that term in the Board of  
11 Higher Education Act.

12 (a-3) For school districts maintaining grades 10 through  
13 12, to provide, on an equal basis, and consistent with the  
14 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,  
15 access to a high school campus and student directory  
16 information to the official recruiting representatives of the  
17 armed forces of Illinois and the United States, and State  
18 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of  
19 informing students of educational and career opportunities if  
20 the board has provided such access to persons or groups whose  
21 purpose is to acquaint students with educational or  
22 occupational opportunities available to them. The board is not  
23 required to give greater notice regarding the right of access  
24 to recruiting representatives than is given to other persons  
25 and groups. In this Section, "directory information" means a

1 high school student's name, address, and telephone number.

2 (a-5) For a school district maintaining grades 10 through  
3 12, to provide, on an equal basis and consistent with the  
4 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,  
5 access to high school student directory information and each  
6 student's email address and grade point average to the  
7 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and each public  
8 institution of higher education for the purpose of informing  
9 students of educational and career opportunities.

10 (b) If a student or his or her parent or guardian submits a  
11 signed, written request to the high school before the end of  
12 the student's sophomore year (or if the student is a transfer  
13 student, by another time set by the high school) that  
14 indicates that the student or his or her parent or guardian  
15 does not want the student's directory information to be  
16 provided to official recruiting representatives under  
17 subsection (a-3) ~~(a)~~ of this Section, the high school may not  
18 provide access to the student's directory information to these  
19 recruiting representatives. The high school shall notify its  
20 students and their parents or guardians of the provisions of  
21 this subsection (b).

22 (b-5) If a student, who is 18 years of age or older or the  
23 parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age  
24 submits a signed, written request to the high school before  
25 the start of the student's junior year, or if the student is a  
26 transfer student, by another time set by the high school, that

1 indicates that the student or his or her parent or guardian  
2 does permit the student's directory information and the  
3 student's email address and grade point average to be provided  
4 under subsection (a-5), the high school shall provide the  
5 student's directory information and the student's email  
6 address and grade point average to each public institution of  
7 higher education, and the Illinois Student Assistance  
8 Commission. The high school shall notify its students and  
9 their parents or guardians of the provisions of this  
10 subsection and, at the time of school registration, give its  
11 students and their parents or guardians the option for the  
12 student information to be shared for this purpose.

13 (c) A high school may require official recruiting  
14 representatives of the armed forces of Illinois and the United  
15 States to pay a fee for copying and mailing a student's  
16 directory information in an amount that is not more than the  
17 actual costs incurred by the high school.

18 (d) Information received by an official ~~recruiting~~  
19 ~~representative~~ under this Section may be used only to provide  
20 information to students concerning educational and career  
21 opportunities and to assist in designating State Scholars  
22 under Section 25 of the Higher Education Student Assistance  
23 Act. Information may not be released to a person who is not  
24 involved in recruiting students for the armed forces of  
25 Illinois or the United States or providing educational  
26 opportunity information for the Board of Higher Education, the

1 Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student  
2 Assistance Commission, or public ~~State~~ institutions of higher  
3 education.

4 (e) By July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, each school  
5 district under this Section shall make high school ~~January 1,~~  
6 ~~2024,~~ student ~~directory~~ information ~~shall be made~~  
7 electronically accessible through a secure centralized data  
8 system for official recruiting representatives of the armed  
9 forces of Illinois and the United States, as well as to the  
10 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and ~~State~~ public  
11 institutions of higher education.

12 The Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community  
13 College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and  
14 the State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary to  
15 administer this Section.

16 (Source: P.A. 103-204, eff. 1-1-24.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/34-18) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-18)

18 Sec. 34-18. Powers of the board. The board shall exercise  
19 general supervision and jurisdiction over the public education  
20 and the public school system of the city, and, except as  
21 otherwise provided by this Article, shall have power:

22 1. To make suitable provision for the establishment  
23 and maintenance throughout the year or for such portion  
24 thereof as it may direct, not less than 9 months and in  
25 compliance with Section 10-19.05, of schools of all grades

1 and kinds, including normal schools, high schools, night  
2 schools, schools for defectives and delinquents, parental  
3 and truant schools, schools for the blind, the deaf, and  
4 persons with physical disabilities, schools or classes in  
5 manual training, constructural and vocational teaching,  
6 domestic arts, and physical culture, vocation and  
7 extension schools and lecture courses, and all other  
8 educational courses and facilities, including  
9 establishing, equipping, maintaining and operating  
10 playgrounds and recreational programs, when such programs  
11 are conducted in, adjacent to, or connected with any  
12 public school under the general supervision and  
13 jurisdiction of the board; provided that the calendar for  
14 the school term and any changes must be submitted to and  
15 approved by the State Board of Education before the  
16 calendar or changes may take effect, and provided that in  
17 allocating funds from year to year for the operation of  
18 all attendance centers within the district, the board  
19 shall ensure that supplemental general State aid or  
20 supplemental grant funds are allocated and applied in  
21 accordance with Section 18-8, 18-8.05, or 18-8.15. To  
22 admit to such schools without charge foreign exchange  
23 students who are participants in an organized exchange  
24 student program which is authorized by the board. The  
25 board shall permit all students to enroll in  
26 apprenticeship programs in trade schools operated by the

1 board, whether those programs are union-sponsored or not.  
2 No student shall be refused admission into or be excluded  
3 from any course of instruction offered in the common  
4 schools by reason of that student's sex. No student shall  
5 be denied equal access to physical education and  
6 interscholastic athletic programs supported from school  
7 district funds or denied participation in comparable  
8 physical education and athletic programs solely by reason  
9 of the student's sex. Equal access to programs supported  
10 from school district funds and comparable programs will be  
11 defined in rules promulgated by the State Board of  
12 Education in consultation with the Illinois High School  
13 Association. Notwithstanding any other provision of this  
14 Article, neither the board of education nor any local  
15 school council or other school official shall recommend  
16 that children with disabilities be placed into regular  
17 education classrooms unless those children with  
18 disabilities are provided with supplementary services to  
19 assist them so that they benefit from the regular  
20 classroom instruction and are included on the teacher's  
21 regular education class register;

22 2. To furnish lunches to pupils, to make a reasonable  
23 charge therefor, and to use school funds for the payment  
24 of such expenses as the board may determine are necessary  
25 in conducting the school lunch program;

26 3. To co-operate with the circuit court;

1           4. To make arrangements with the public or  
2       quasi-public libraries and museums for the use of their  
3       facilities by teachers and pupils of the public schools;

4           5. To employ dentists and prescribe their duties for  
5       the purpose of treating the pupils in the schools, but  
6       accepting such treatment shall be optional with parents or  
7       guardians;

8           6. To grant the use of assembly halls and classrooms  
9       when not otherwise needed, including light, heat, and  
10      attendants, for free public lectures, concerts, and other  
11      educational and social interests, free of charge, under  
12      such provisions and control as the principal of the  
13      affected attendance center may prescribe;

14          7. To apportion the pupils to the several schools;  
15      provided that no pupil shall be excluded from or  
16      segregated in any such school on account of his color,  
17      race, sex, or nationality. The board shall take into  
18      consideration the prevention of segregation and the  
19      elimination of separation of children in public schools  
20      because of color, race, sex, or nationality. Except that  
21      children may be committed to or attend parental and social  
22      adjustment schools established and maintained either for  
23      boys or girls only. All records pertaining to the  
24      creation, alteration or revision of attendance areas shall  
25      be open to the public. Nothing herein shall limit the  
26      board's authority to establish multi-area attendance

1 centers or other student assignment systems for  
2 desegregation purposes or otherwise, and to apportion the  
3 pupils to the several schools. Furthermore, beginning in  
4 school year 1994-95, pursuant to a board plan adopted by  
5 October 1, 1993, the board shall offer, commencing on a  
6 phased-in basis, the opportunity for families within the  
7 school district to apply for enrollment of their children  
8 in any attendance center within the school district which  
9 does not have selective admission requirements approved by  
10 the board. The appropriate geographical area in which such  
11 open enrollment may be exercised shall be determined by  
12 the board of education. Such children may be admitted to  
13 any such attendance center on a space available basis  
14 after all children residing within such attendance  
15 center's area have been accommodated. If the number of  
16 applicants from outside the attendance area exceed the  
17 space available, then successful applicants shall be  
18 selected by lottery. The board of education's open  
19 enrollment plan must include provisions that allow  
20 low-income students to have access to transportation  
21 needed to exercise school choice. Open enrollment shall be  
22 in compliance with the provisions of the Consent Decree  
23 and Desegregation Plan cited in Section 34-1.01;

24 8. To approve programs and policies for providing  
25 transportation services to students. Nothing herein shall  
26 be construed to permit or empower the State Board of



1 Education to order, mandate, or require busing or other  
2 transportation of pupils for the purpose of achieving  
3 racial balance in any school;

4 9. Subject to the limitations in this Article, to  
5 establish and approve system-wide curriculum objectives  
6 and standards, including graduation standards, which  
7 reflect the multi-cultural diversity in the city and are  
8 consistent with State law, provided that for all purposes  
9 of this Article courses or proficiency in American Sign  
10 Language shall be deemed to constitute courses or  
11 proficiency in a foreign language; and to employ  
12 principals and teachers, appointed as provided in this  
13 Article, and fix their compensation. The board shall  
14 prepare such reports related to minimal competency testing  
15 as may be requested by the State Board of Education and, in  
16 addition, shall monitor and approve special education and  
17 bilingual education programs and policies within the  
18 district to ensure that appropriate services are provided  
19 in accordance with applicable State and federal laws to  
20 children requiring services and education in those areas;

21 10. To employ non-teaching personnel or utilize  
22 volunteer personnel for: (i) non-teaching duties not  
23 requiring instructional judgment or evaluation of pupils,  
24 including library duties; and (ii) supervising study  
25 halls, long distance teaching reception areas used  
26 incident to instructional programs transmitted by

1 electronic media such as computers, video, and audio,  
2 detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored  
3 extracurricular activities. The board may further utilize  
4 volunteer nonlicensed personnel or employ nonlicensed  
5 personnel to assist in the instruction of pupils under the  
6 immediate supervision of a teacher holding a valid  
7 educator license, directly engaged in teaching subject  
8 matter or conducting activities; provided that the teacher  
9 shall be continuously aware of the nonlicensed persons'  
10 activities and shall be able to control or modify them.  
11 The general superintendent shall determine qualifications  
12 of such personnel and shall prescribe rules for  
13 determining the duties and activities to be assigned to  
14 such personnel;

15 10.5. To utilize volunteer personnel from a regional  
16 School Crisis Assistance Team (S.C.A.T.), created as part  
17 of the Safe to Learn Program established pursuant to  
18 Section 25 of the Illinois Violence Prevention Act of  
19 1995, to provide assistance to schools in times of  
20 violence or other traumatic incidents within a school  
21 community by providing crisis intervention services to  
22 lessen the effects of emotional trauma on individuals and  
23 the community; the School Crisis Assistance Team Steering  
24 Committee shall determine the qualifications for  
25 volunteers;

26 11. To provide television studio facilities in not to

1 exceed one school building and to provide programs for  
2 educational purposes, provided, however, that the board  
3 shall not construct, acquire, operate, or maintain a  
4 television transmitter; to grant the use of its studio  
5 facilities to a licensed television station located in the  
6 school district; and to maintain and operate not to exceed  
7 one school radio transmitting station and provide programs  
8 for educational purposes;

9 12. To offer, if deemed appropriate, outdoor education  
10 courses, including field trips within the State of  
11 Illinois, or adjacent states, and to use school  
12 educational funds for the expense of the said outdoor  
13 educational programs, whether within the school district  
14 or not;

15 13. During that period of the calendar year not  
16 embraced within the regular school term, to provide and  
17 conduct courses in subject matters normally embraced in  
18 the program of the schools during the regular school term  
19 and to give regular school credit for satisfactory  
20 completion by the student of such courses as may be  
21 approved for credit by the State Board of Education;

22 14. To insure against any loss or liability of the  
23 board, the former School Board Nominating Commission,  
24 Local School Councils, the Chicago Schools Academic  
25 Accountability Council, or the former Subdistrict Councils  
26 or of any member, officer, agent, or employee thereof,

1 resulting from alleged violations of civil rights arising  
2 from incidents occurring on or after September 5, 1967 or  
3 from the wrongful or negligent act or omission of any such  
4 person whether occurring within or without the school  
5 premises, provided the officer, agent, or employee was, at  
6 the time of the alleged violation of civil rights or  
7 wrongful act or omission, acting within the scope of his  
8 or her employment or under direction of the board, the  
9 former School Board Nominating Commission, the Chicago  
10 Schools Academic Accountability Council, Local School  
11 Councils, or the former Subdistrict Councils; and to  
12 provide for or participate in insurance plans for its  
13 officers and employees, including, but not limited to,  
14 retirement annuities, medical, surgical and  
15 hospitalization benefits in such types and amounts as may  
16 be determined by the board; provided, however, that the  
17 board shall contract for such insurance only with an  
18 insurance company authorized to do business in this State.  
19 Such insurance may include provision for employees who  
20 rely on treatment by prayer or spiritual means alone for  
21 healing, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a  
22 recognized religious denomination;

23 15. To contract with the corporate authorities of any  
24 municipality or the county board of any county, as the  
25 case may be, to provide for the regulation of traffic in  
26 parking areas of property used for school purposes, in

1 such manner as is provided by Section 11-209 of the  
2 Illinois Vehicle Code;

3 16. In this paragraph:

4 "Directory information" means a high school student's  
5 name, address, and telephone number.

6 "Public institution of higher education" has the  
7 meaning given to that term in the Board of Higher  
8 Education Act.

9 (a) To provide, on an equal basis and consistent with  
10 the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of  
11 1974, access to a high school campus and student directory  
12 information to the official recruiting representatives of  
13 the armed forces of Illinois and the United States for the  
14 purposes of informing students of ~~the~~ educational and  
15 career opportunities ~~available in the military~~ if the  
16 board has provided such access to persons or groups whose  
17 purpose is to acquaint students with educational or  
18 occupational opportunities available to them. The board is  
19 not required to give greater notice regarding the right of  
20 access to recruiting representatives than is given to  
21 other persons and groups. In this paragraph 16, "directory  
22 information" means a high school student's name, address,  
23 and telephone number.

24 (a-5) To provide, on an equal basis and consistent  
25 with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act  
26 of 1974, access to high school student directory

1 information and each student's email address and grade  
2 point average to each public institution of higher  
3 education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois  
4 Community College Board, and the Illinois Student  
5 Assistance Commission for the purpose of informing  
6 students of educational and career opportunities.

7 (b) If a student or his or her parent or guardian  
8 submits a signed, written request to the high school  
9 before the end of the student's sophomore year (or if the  
10 student is a transfer student, by another time set by the  
11 high school) that indicates that the student or his or her  
12 parent or guardian does not want the student's directory  
13 information to be provided to official recruiting  
14 representatives under subparagraph ~~subsection~~ (a) of  
15 paragraph 1 of this Section, the high school may not  
16 provide access to the student's directory information to  
17 these recruiting representatives. The high school shall  
18 notify its students and their parents or guardians of the  
19 provisions of this subparagraph ~~subsection (b)~~.

20 (b-5) If a student, who is 18 years of age or older, or  
21 the parent or guardian of a student under 18 years of age  
22 submits a signed, written request to the high school  
23 before the start of the student's junior year, or if the  
24 student is a transfer student by another time set by the  
25 high school, that indicates that the student or his or her  
26 parent or guardian does permit the student's directory

1 information and the student's email address and grade  
2 point average to be provided, the high school shall  
3 provide the student's directory information and the  
4 student's email address and grade point average to each  
5 public institution of higher education, the Board of  
6 Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board,  
7 and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The high  
8 school shall notify its students and their parents or  
9 guardians of the provisions of this subparagraph and, at  
10 the time of school registration, give its students and  
11 their parents or guardians the option for the student  
12 information to be shared for this purpose.

13 (c) A high school may require official recruiting  
14 representatives of the armed forces of Illinois and the  
15 United States to pay a fee for copying and mailing a  
16 student's directory information in an amount that is not  
17 more than the actual costs incurred by the high school.

18 (d) Information received by an official ~~recruiting~~  
19 ~~representative~~ under this Section may be used only to  
20 provide information to students concerning educational and  
21 career opportunities ~~available in the military~~ and to  
22 assist in designating State Scholars under Section 25 of  
23 the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Information  
24 may not be released to a person who is not involved in  
25 recruiting students for the armed forces of Illinois or  
26 the United States or providing educational opportunity

1 information for the Board of Higher Education, the  
2 Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student  
3 Assistance Commission, or public institutions of higher  
4 education.

5 (e) By July 1, 2026 the school district shall make  
6 student directory information electronically accessible  
7 for official recruiting representatives of the armed  
8 forces of Illinois or the United States, as well as to the  
9 Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College  
10 Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and  
11 public institutions of higher education, as set forth in  
12 subparagraphs (a) and (a-5) of this paragraph;

13 17. (a) To sell or market any computer program  
14 developed by an employee of the school district, provided  
15 that such employee developed the computer program as a  
16 direct result of his or her duties with the school  
17 district or through the utilization of school district  
18 resources or facilities. The employee who developed the  
19 computer program shall be entitled to share in the  
20 proceeds of such sale or marketing of the computer  
21 program. The distribution of such proceeds between the  
22 employee and the school district shall be as agreed upon  
23 by the employee and the school district, except that  
24 neither the employee nor the school district may receive  
25 more than 90% of such proceeds. The negotiation for an  
26 employee who is represented by an exclusive bargaining



1 representative may be conducted by such bargaining  
2 representative at the employee's request.

3 (b) For the purpose of this paragraph 17:

4 (1) "Computer" means an internally programmed, general  
5 purpose digital device capable of automatically accepting  
6 data, processing data and supplying the results of the  
7 operation.

8 (2) "Computer program" means a series of coded  
9 instructions or statements in a form acceptable to a  
10 computer, which causes the computer to process data in  
11 order to achieve a certain result.

12 (3) "Proceeds" means profits derived from the  
13 marketing or sale of a product after deducting the  
14 expenses of developing and marketing such product;

15 18. To delegate to the general superintendent of  
16 schools, by resolution, the authority to approve contracts  
17 and expenditures in amounts of \$35,000 or less;

18 19. Upon the written request of an employee, to  
19 withhold from the compensation of that employee any dues,  
20 payments, or contributions payable by such employee to any  
21 labor organization as defined in the Illinois Educational  
22 Labor Relations Act. Under such arrangement, an amount  
23 shall be withheld from each regular payroll period which  
24 is equal to the pro rata share of the annual dues plus any  
25 payments or contributions, and the board shall transmit  
26 such withholdings to the specified labor organization

1           within 10 working days from the time of the withholding;

2           19a. Upon receipt of notice from the comptroller of a  
3           municipality with a population of 500,000 or more, a  
4           county with a population of 3,000,000 or more, the Cook  
5           County Forest Preserve District, the Chicago Park  
6           District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the  
7           Chicago Transit Authority, or a housing authority of a  
8           municipality with a population of 500,000 or more that a  
9           debt is due and owing the municipality, the county, the  
10          Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Chicago Park  
11          District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the  
12          Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing authority by an  
13          employee of the Chicago Board of Education, to withhold,  
14          from the compensation of that employee, the amount of the  
15          debt that is due and owing and pay the amount withheld to  
16          the municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest  
17          Preserve District, the Chicago Park District, the  
18          Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Chicago  
19          Transit Authority, or the housing authority; provided,  
20          however, that the amount deducted from any one salary or  
21          wage payment shall not exceed 25% of the net amount of the  
22          payment. Before the Board deducts any amount from any  
23          salary or wage of an employee under this paragraph, the  
24          municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve  
25          District, the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan  
26          Water Reclamation District, the Chicago Transit Authority,

1 or the housing authority shall certify that (i) the  
2 employee has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing to  
3 dispute the debt that is due and owing the municipality,  
4 the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the  
5 Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
6 District, the Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing  
7 authority and (ii) the employee has received notice of a  
8 wage deduction order and has been afforded an opportunity  
9 for a hearing to object to the order. For purposes of this  
10 paragraph, "net amount" means that part of the salary or  
11 wage payment remaining after the deduction of any amounts  
12 required by law to be deducted and "debt due and owing"  
13 means (i) a specified sum of money owed to the  
14 municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve  
15 District, the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan  
16 Water Reclamation District, the Chicago Transit Authority,  
17 or the housing authority for services, work, or goods,  
18 after the period granted for payment has expired, or (ii)  
19 a specified sum of money owed to the municipality, the  
20 county, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the  
21 Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
22 District, the Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing  
23 authority pursuant to a court order or order of an  
24 administrative hearing officer after the exhaustion of, or  
25 the failure to exhaust, judicial review;

26 20. The board is encouraged to employ a sufficient

1 number of licensed school counselors to maintain a  
2 student/counselor ratio of 250 to 1. Each counselor shall  
3 spend at least 75% of his work time in direct contact with  
4 students and shall maintain a record of such time;

5 21. To make available to students vocational and  
6 career counseling and to establish 5 special career  
7 counseling days for students and parents. On these days  
8 representatives of local businesses and industries shall  
9 be invited to the school campus and shall inform students  
10 of career opportunities available to them in the various  
11 businesses and industries. Special consideration shall be  
12 given to counseling minority students as to career  
13 opportunities available to them in various fields. For the  
14 purposes of this paragraph, minority student means a  
15 person who is any of the following:

16 (a) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person having  
17 origins in any of the original peoples of North and South  
18 America, including Central America, and who maintains  
19 tribal affiliation or community attachment).

20 (b) Asian (a person having origins in any of the  
21 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the  
22 Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited to,  
23 Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan,  
24 the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam).

25 (c) Black or African American (a person having origins  
26 in any of the black racial groups of Africa).

1           (d) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,  
2           Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish  
3           culture or origin, regardless of race).

4           (e) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a  
5           person having origins in any of the original peoples of  
6           Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

7           Counseling days shall not be in lieu of regular school  
8           days;

9           22. To report to the State Board of Education the  
10          annual student dropout rate and number of students who  
11          graduate from, transfer from, or otherwise leave bilingual  
12          programs;

13          23. Except as otherwise provided in the Abused and  
14          Neglected Child Reporting Act or other applicable State or  
15          federal law, to permit school officials to withhold, from  
16          any person, information on the whereabouts of any child  
17          removed from school premises when the child has been taken  
18          into protective custody as a victim of suspected child  
19          abuse. School officials shall direct such person to the  
20          Department of Children and Family Services or to the local  
21          law enforcement agency, if appropriate;

22          24. To develop a policy, based on the current state of  
23          existing school facilities, projected enrollment, and  
24          efficient utilization of available resources, for capital  
25          improvement of schools and school buildings within the  
26          district, addressing in that policy both the relative

1 priority for major repairs, renovations, and additions to  
2 school facilities and the advisability or necessity of  
3 building new school facilities or closing existing schools  
4 to meet current or projected demographic patterns within  
5 the district;

6 25. To make available to the students in every high  
7 school attendance center the ability to take all courses  
8 necessary to comply with the Board of Higher Education's  
9 college entrance criteria effective in 1993;

10 26. To encourage mid-career changes into the teaching  
11 profession, whereby qualified professionals become  
12 licensed teachers, by allowing credit for professional  
13 employment in related fields when determining point of  
14 entry on the teacher pay scale;

15 27. To provide or contract out training programs for  
16 administrative personnel and principals with revised or  
17 expanded duties pursuant to this Code in order to ensure  
18 they have the knowledge and skills to perform their  
19 duties;

20 28. To establish a fund for the prioritized special  
21 needs programs, and to allocate such funds and other lump  
22 sum amounts to each attendance center in a manner  
23 consistent with the provisions of part 4 of Section  
24 34-2.3. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to  
25 require any additional appropriations of State funds for  
26 this purpose;

1           29. (Blank);

2           30. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or  
3           any other law to the contrary, to contract with third  
4           parties for services otherwise performed by employees,  
5           including those in a bargaining unit, and to lay off  
6           ~~layoff~~ those employees upon 14 days' ~~days~~ written notice  
7           to the affected employees. Those contracts may be for a  
8           period not to exceed 5 years and may be awarded on a  
9           system-wide basis. The board may not operate more than 30  
10          contract schools, provided that the board may operate an  
11          additional 5 contract turnaround schools pursuant to item  
12          (5.5) of subsection (d) of Section 34-8.3 of this Code,  
13          and the governing bodies of contract schools are subject  
14          to the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act;

15          31. To promulgate rules establishing procedures  
16          governing the layoff or reduction in force of employees  
17          and the recall of such employees, including, but not  
18          limited to, criteria for such layoffs, reductions in force  
19          or recall rights of such employees and the weight to be  
20          given to any particular criterion. Such criteria shall  
21          take into account factors, including, but not limited to,  
22          qualifications, certifications, experience, performance  
23          ratings or evaluations, and any other factors relating to  
24          an employee's job performance;

25          32. To develop a policy to prevent nepotism in the  
26          hiring of personnel or the selection of contractors;

1           33. (Blank); and

2           34. To establish a Labor Management Council to the  
3       board comprised of representatives of the board, the chief  
4       executive officer, and those labor organizations that are  
5       the exclusive representatives of employees of the board  
6       and to promulgate policies and procedures for the  
7       operation of the Council.

8       The specifications of the powers herein granted are not to  
9       be construed as exclusive, but the board shall also exercise  
10      all other powers that may be requisite or proper for the  
11      maintenance and the development of a public school system, not  
12      inconsistent with the other provisions of this Article or  
13      provisions of this Code which apply to all school districts.

14      In addition to the powers herein granted and authorized to  
15      be exercised by the board, it shall be the duty of the board to  
16      review or to direct independent reviews of special education  
17      expenditures and services. The board shall file a report of  
18      such review with the General Assembly on or before May 1, 1990.

19      (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;  
20      102-894, eff. 5-20-22; 103-8, eff. 1-1-24; revised 7-17-24.)