

HB4098



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4098

Introduced 10/15/2025, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie and Travis Weaver

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Educational Choice for Illinois Children Act. Contains legislative findings. Provides that the State Board of Education, in coordination with the Department of Revenue, shall establish and approve a list of scholarship granting organizations that meet the requirements of Section 70411 of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to facilitate opting the State of Illinois into the school choice tax credit provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act. Effective immediately.

LRB104 14516 HLH 27656 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

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
5 Educational Choice for Illinois Children Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Section 1 of Article X of the Illinois Constitution
8 provides that "[a] fundamental goal of the People of the State
9 is the educational development of all persons to the limits of
10 their capacities.". However, the State has failed to meet this
11 goal. According to the 2024 National Assessment of Educational
12 Progress (NAEP), 62% of 4th graders in the State were below
13 proficient in mathematics, and 68% of 8th graders in the State
14 were below proficient in mathematics. In reading, 70% of 4th
15 graders were below proficient, and 67% of 8th graders were
16 below proficient.

17 (2) H.R.1 of the 119th Congress (The One Big Beautiful
18 Bill Act) was recently signed into law. It offers a federal tax
19 credit of up to \$1,700 for individuals who donate to
20 Scholarship Granting Organizations, thereby increasing funding
21 for these organizations to help families pay for their
22 children to attend the K-12 school of their choice. The list of
23 eligible educational expenses includes tuition, fees,

1 tutoring, educational therapies, transportation, technology,
2 and other expenses for children attending public schools,
3 private schools, and home schools.

4 (3) Illinois experienced great success with its own tax
5 credit program, the Invest in Kids Act, which was allowed to
6 expire at the end of 2023. According to the Department of
7 Revenue, over 40,940 scholarships were awarded during the time
8 that the Invest in Kids Act was active. Failure to opt into the
9 provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act would place
10 Illinois at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states
11 that are likely to opt into the school choice provisions of the
12 One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

13 (4) The ability to choose where your child goes to school
14 should not be a privilege reserved for the wealthy. Too many
15 students are trapped in an educational learning environment
16 that fails to meet their needs, and the financial burden of
17 attending a different school is too often out of reach.
18 Scholarships from scholarship granting organizations under the
19 One Big Beautiful Bill Act can help alleviate this financial
20 burden for families that could not otherwise afford private
21 school and would result in no additional cost to the State.

22 (5) It is the purpose of this Act to support school choice
23 in the State of Illinois by directing the Department of
24 Revenue and the State Board of Education to develop a list of
25 scholarship granting organizations to which qualified
26 contributions may be made under Section 70411 of the One Big

1 Beautiful Bill Act.

2 Section 10. List of scholarship granting organizations. By
3 January 1, 2026, the State Board of Education, in coordination
4 with the Department of Revenue, shall establish and approve a
5 list of scholarship granting organizations that meet the
6 requirements of Section 70411 of the One Big Beautiful Bill
7 Act to facilitate opting the State of Illinois into the school
8 choice tax credit provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill
9 Act.

10 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
11 becoming law.