

104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4145

Introduced 10/15/2025, by Rep. Rick Ryan

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Graduate Readiness and Development Act. Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules and guidelines for an exit orientation program for grade 11 and 12 students to prepare the students to enter the workforce, obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or military service. Requires the school board of each school district operating a high school to annually host an exit orientation program that complies with the rules and guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education under the Act. Provides that the school board shall permit representatives of labor organizations, military branches, workforce training providers, vocational training providers, local chambers of commerce, banks, and private businesses to present information on jobs, training, apprenticeships, internships, jobs requiring certification, and related topics to students during a high school's exit orientation program. Requires each Illinois workNet Center to ensure that the exit orientation program of each high school in its local area is aligned with the needs and opportunities of the local labor market and to provide the school board of the school district that operates the high school with information on local labor market needs and assist with coordinating participation in the program by local chambers of commerce, private businesses, and others.

LRB104 15651 LNS 28822 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

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
5 Graduate Readiness and Development Act.

6 Section 5. Exit orientation program.

7 (a) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules and
8 guidelines for an exit orientation program for grade 11 and 12
9 students to prepare the students to enter the workforce,
10 obtain marketable skills, or enroll in higher education or
11 military service. The rules and guidelines shall include:

12 (1) instruction on federal student loans, including
13 the application process and the financial burden created
14 upon graduation;

15 (2) instruction on federal and State grant programs
16 for higher education;

17 (3) instruction on the availability of local
18 internships and apprenticeships offered by labor union
19 organizations and associations;

20 (4) information on any individual microcredential
21 assistance programs, training programs created under the
22 federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and any
23 other federal or State programs that allow participants to

1 obtain marketable skills free of charge;

2 (5) information on local technical and vocational
3 training providers;

4 (6) information on voter registration and the voting
5 process, including the process of voting in a primary
6 election while 17 years of age in limited circumstances;

7 (7) information on enlistment in military service;

8 (8) information on local employment opportunities;

9 (9) information on local programs provided to obtain
10 gainful employment;

11 (10) information on local health care clinics and
12 health care facilities, including county departments of
13 public health;

14 (11) information on local sexually transmitted disease
15 testing facilities;

16 (12) a list of local libraries and information on what
17 free and low-cost services each library offers;

18 (13) information on how to open a checking account and
19 a savings account and how to apply for a mortgage; and

20 (14) information on how to open various retirement
21 accounts, the basics of how the retirement accounts work,
22 and how the money in the retirement accounts compounds
23 over time.

24 (b) The school board of each school district operating a
25 high school shall annually host an exit orientation program
26 that complies with the rules and guidelines adopted by the

1 State Board of Education under this Act for all students in
2 grade 11 and 12 at each high school operated by the school
3 district. The school board shall schedule a high school's exit
4 orientation program on one school day during the month of
5 September or October. The school board of a school district
6 that operates multiple high schools shall endeavor to schedule
7 each high school's program on a different school day.

8 (c) The school board of each school district operating a
9 high school shall permit representatives of labor
10 organizations, military branches, workforce training
11 providers, vocational training providers, local chambers of
12 commerce, banks, and private businesses to present information
13 on jobs, training, apprenticeships, internships, jobs
14 requiring certification, and related topics to students during
15 a high school's exit orientation program.

16 (d) The school board of each school district operating a
17 high school shall actively participate in planning and
18 conducting the exit orientation program of the high school. At
19 the exit orientation program, the school board shall present
20 information on workforce development programs offered or
21 funded by the school board, including training programs
22 created under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
23 Act.

24 (e) Each Illinois workNet Center shall ensure that the
25 exit orientation program of each high school in its local area
26 is aligned with the needs and opportunities of the local labor

1 market. The Illinois workNet Center shall provide the school
2 board of the school district that operates the high school
3 with information on local labor market needs and assist with
4 coordinating participation in the program by local chambers of
5 commerce, private businesses, and others. The Illinois workNet
6 Center shall encourage local chambers of commerce to
7 participate.