



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4201

Introduced 1/14/2026, by Rep. Tony M. McCombie

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.208 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that the General Assembly voluntarily elects the State to: (1) participate in the federal tax credit established under the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act for individuals who make qualified contributions to scholarship granting organizations; and (2) identify scholarship granting organizations located in this State. Authorizes and empowers the State Board of Education to certify and submit a list of qualifying scholarship granting organizations to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States in accordance with the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act and its associated regulations. Provides that by January 1, 2027 and by every January 1 thereafter, the State Board shall submit to the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States and publish on the State Board's Internet website a list of all scholarship granting organizations that meet the requirements of the federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act and are located in this State.

LRB104 15959 LNS 29197 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. This Act may be referred to as the Educational
5 Choice for Illinois Children Act.

6 Section 2. Findings. The General Assembly makes all of the
7 following findings:

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

19 (2) H.R. 1 of the 119th Congress, the One Big
20 Beautiful Bill Act, was recently signed into law. It
21 offers a federal tax credit of up to \$1,700 for
22 individuals who donate to scholarship granting
23 organizations, thereby increasing funding for these

1 organizations to help families pay for their children to
2 attend the kindergarten through grade 12 school of their
3 choice. The list of eligible educational expenses includes
4 tuition, fees, tutoring, educational therapies,
5 transportation, technology, and other expenses for
6 children attending public schools and private schools.

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

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

1 (5) It is the purpose of this Act to support school
2 choice in this State by directing the State Board of
3 Education to develop a list of scholarship granting
4 organizations to which qualified contributions may be made
5 under Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code.

6 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
7 2-3.208 as follows:

8 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.208 new)

9 Sec. 2-3.208. Federal-qualifying scholarships.

10 (a) Pursuant to Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code,
11 the General Assembly voluntarily elects the State to do each
12 of the following:

13 (1) Participate in the federal tax credit established
14 under Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code for
15 individuals who make qualified contributions to
16 scholarship granting organizations.

17 (2) Identify scholarship granting organizations
18 located in this State in accordance with this Section.

19 (b) The State Board of Education is authorized and
20 empowered to certify and submit a list of qualifying
21 scholarship granting organizations to the Secretary of the
22 Treasury of the United States in accordance with Section 25F
23 of the Internal Revenue Code and its associated regulations as
24 provided in this Section.

1 (c) By January 1, 2027 and by every January 1 thereafter,
2 the State Board shall submit to the Secretary of the Treasury
3 of the United States and publish on the State Board's Internet
4 website a list of all scholarship granting organizations that
5 meet the requirements of Section 25F of the Internal Revenue
6 Code and are located in this State. As part of the submission,
7 the State Board shall certify its authority to submit the list
8 on behalf of the State and comply with any other requirements
9 of Section 25F of the Internal Revenue Code, its associated
10 regulations, or other applicable guidance issued by the
11 Secretary of the Treasury of the United States.