



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5363

Introduced 2/10/2026, by Rep. Maura Hirschauer

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.214 new

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to make grants available for community schools separate and apart from any federal appropriations to be issued to the Afterschool for Children and Teens Now Coalition (ACT Now) through its fiscal sponsor Metropolitan Family Services and disbursed to 32 partner schools in the State. Requires all ACT Now partner schools to develop plans for implementing community schools that include activities in all of the pipeline services. Requires ACT Now partner schools to submit data on services designated by ACT Now annually to the State Board. Requires ACT Now partner schools to submit all oversight and accounting procedures established by ACT Now to the State Board. Requires ACT Now to conduct technical assistance services, provide professional development to schools and partners, and conduct an annual evaluation of a grant awarded by the State Board. Effective July 1, 2026.

LRB104 19313 LNS 32759 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 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.214 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.214 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.214. Grants to ACT Now; ACT Now pipeline  
8 services.

9 (a) The purpose of this Section is to:

10 (1) Ensure high-quality educational opportunities and  
11 improved educational outcomes for all students through  
12 investment in sustainable community schools.

13 (2) Use the authority of state legislative bodies to  
14 support and fund the planning, development,  
15 implementation, and evaluation of full-service community  
16 schools.

17 (3) Elevate full-service community schools as a  
18 comprehensive solution to problems facing public schools,  
19 especially in low-income communities.

20 (4) Document and evaluate lessons learned from  
21 community schools programs to develop a set of best  
22 practices to be shared locally, statewide, and nationwide.

23 (5) Elevate community schools as an important

1 component of a viable long-term public safety strategy  
2 that reduces and prevents crimes through the provision of  
3 community resources and better academic outcomes.

4 (6) Sustain funding for full-service community schools  
5 interrupted by federal funding withholding.

6 (b) As used in this Section:

7 "ACT Now" means the Afterschool for Children and Teens Now  
8 Coalition.

9 "Full-service community school" means a public elementary  
10 school or secondary school that:

11 (1) participates in a community-based effort to  
12 coordinate and integrate educational, developmental,  
13 family, health, and other comprehensive services through  
14 community-based organizations and public and private  
15 partnerships; and

16 (2) provides access to such services in school to  
17 students, families, and the community, such as access  
18 during the school year, including before and after school  
19 hours and weekends, as well as during the summer.

20 "Pipeline services" means a continuum of coordinated  
21 supports, services, and opportunities for children from birth  
22 through entry into and success in postsecondary education, and  
23 career attainment. "Pipeline services" includes, at a minimum,  
24 strategies to address, through services or programs, including  
25 integrated student supports, the following:

26 (1) High-quality early childhood education programs.

1           (2) High-quality school and out-of-school time  
2 programs and strategies.

3           (3) Support for a child's transition to elementary  
4 school, from elementary school to middle school, from  
5 middle school to high school, and from high school into  
6 and through postsecondary education and into the  
7 workforce, including any comprehensive readiness  
8 assessment determined necessary.

9           (4) Family and community engagement and supports,  
10 including engaging or supporting families at school or at  
11 home.

12           (5) Activities that support postsecondary and  
13 workforce readiness, including job training, internship  
14 opportunities, and career counseling.

15           (6) Community-based support for students who have  
16 attended the schools in the area served by the pipeline,  
17 or students who are members of the community, facilitating  
18 their continued connection to the community and success in  
19 postsecondary education and the workforce.

20           (7) Social, health, nutrition, and mental health  
21 services and supports.

22           (8) Juvenile crime prevention and rehabilitation  
23 programs.

24           (c) The State Board of Education shall make grants  
25 available for community schools separate and apart from any  
26 federal appropriations to be issued to ACT Now through its

1 fiscal sponsor Metropolitan Family Services and disbursed to  
2 32 partner schools in this State.

3 (d) All ACT Now partner schools must develop plans for  
4 implementing community schools that include activities in all  
5 of the pipeline services.

6 (e) ACT Now partner schools must submit data on services  
7 designated by ACT Now annually to the State Board of  
8 Education.

9 (f) ACT Now partner schools must submit all oversight and  
10 accounting procedures established by ACT Now to the State  
11 Board of Education.

12 (g) ACT Now must conduct technical assistance services,  
13 provide professional development to schools and partners, and  
14 conduct an annual evaluation of a grant awarded by the State  
15 Board of Education under subsection (c).

16 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
17 2026.