



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5551

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Michelle Mussman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.33	from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.33
105 ILCS 5/2-3.84	from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.84
105 ILCS 5/14-7.03	from Ch. 122, par. 14-7.03
105 ILCS 5/21B-70	

Amends the School Code. Provides that certain provisions concerning the recomputation and adjustment of a school district claim for general State aid or evidence-based funding shall end with Fiscal Year 2026. Provides that when a child from an orphanage, foster family home, other State agency, children's home, or State residential unit eligible for special education services is placed in a separate public day school, that school shall meet the programmatic requirements and regulations for separate public day schools. Provides that any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching Excellence Program must be used, among other purposes, for indirect costs necessary for Program operation. Provides that an annual retention bonus of up to \$4,000 (rather than \$4,000) per year for 2 consecutive years shall be awarded to National Board certified teachers employed in hard-to-staff schools and such funds must be disbursed equally on an annual basis among all qualified educators (rather than on a first-come, first-served basis). Makes other changes. Effective immediately.

LRB104 20609 LNS 34101 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 changing Sections
5 2-3.33, 2-3.84, 14-7.03, and 21B-70 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.33) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.33)

7 Sec. 2-3.33. Recomputation of claims. To recompute within
8 3 years from the final date for filing of a claim any claim for
9 general State aid reimbursement to any school district and to
10 recompute and adjust any such claims within 6 years from the
11 final date for filing, through and ending with Fiscal Year
12 2026, when there has been an adverse court or administrative
13 agency decision on the merits affecting the tax revenues of
14 the school district. However, no such adjustment shall be made
15 regarding equalized assessed valuation unless the district's
16 equalized assessed valuation is changed by greater than
17 \$250,000 or 2%. Any adjustments for claims recomputed for the
18 2016-2017 school year and prior school years shall be applied
19 to the apportionment of evidence-based funding in Section
20 18-8.15 of this Code beginning in the 2017-2018 school year
21 and thereafter. However, the recomputation of a claim for
22 evidence-based funding for a school district shall not require
23 the recomputation of claims for all districts, and the State

1 Board of Education shall only make recomputations of
2 evidence-based funding for those districts where an adjustment
3 is required, through and ending with Fiscal Year 2026. The
4 State Board is authorized to and shall apply corrections to
5 data used in evidence-based funding calculations that may
6 result in current year adjustments and shall recover funds
7 previously scheduled to be distributed or previously
8 distributed to an Organizational Unit or specially funded unit
9 during a fiscal year in accordance with Section 18-8.15 of
10 this Code.

11 Except in the case of an adverse court or administrative
12 agency decision, no recomputation of a State aid claim shall
13 be made pursuant to this Section as a result of a reduction in
14 the assessed valuation of a school district from the assessed
15 valuation of the district reported to the State Board of
16 Education by the Department of Revenue under Section 18-8.05
17 or 18-8.15 of this Code unless the requirements of Section
18 16-15 of the Property Tax Code and Section 2-3.84 of this Code
19 are complied with in all respects.

20 This paragraph applies to all requests for recomputation
21 of a general State aid or evidence-based funding claim
22 received after June 30, 2003 and before July 1, 2026. In
23 recomputing a general State aid or evidence-based funding
24 claim that was originally calculated using an extension
25 limitation equalized assessed valuation under paragraph (3) of
26 subsection (G) of Section 18-8.05 of this Code or Section

1 18-8.15 of this Code, a qualifying reduction in equalized
2 assessed valuation shall be deducted from the extension
3 limitation equalized assessed valuation that was used in
4 calculating the original claim.

5 From the total amount of general State aid or
6 evidence-based funding to be provided to districts,
7 adjustments as a result of recomputation under this Section
8 together with adjustments under Section 2-3.84 must not exceed
9 \$25 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both
10 Sections combined, of the general State aid or evidence-based
11 funding appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary,
12 amounts shall be prorated among districts. If it is necessary
13 to prorate claims under this paragraph, then that portion of
14 each prorated claim that is approved but not paid in the
15 current fiscal year may be resubmitted as a valid claim in the
16 following fiscal year.

17 (Source: P.A. 102-699, eff. 4-19-22.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.84) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.84)

19 Sec. 2-3.84. In calculating the amount of State aid to be
20 apportioned to the various school districts in this State, the
21 State Board of Education shall incorporate and deduct the
22 total aggregate adjustments to assessments made by the State
23 Property Tax Appeal Board or Cook County Board of Appeals, as
24 reported pursuant to Section 16-15 of the Property Tax Code or
25 Section 129.1 of the Revenue Act of 1939 by the Department of

1 Revenue, from the equalized assessed valuation that is
2 otherwise to be utilized in the initial calculation for
3 adjustments reported through Fiscal Year 2026.

4 From the total amount of general State aid or
5 evidence-based funding to be provided to districts for
6 adjustments reported through Fiscal Year 2026, adjustments
7 under this Section together with adjustments as a result of
8 recomputation under Section 2-3.33 must not exceed \$25
9 million, in the aggregate for all districts under both
10 Sections combined, of the general State aid or evidence-based
11 funding appropriation in any fiscal year; if necessary,
12 amounts shall be prorated among districts. If it is necessary
13 to prorate claims under this paragraph, then that portion of
14 each prorated claim that is approved but not paid in the
15 current fiscal year may be resubmitted as a valid claim in the
16 following fiscal year.

17 (Source: P.A. 100-465, eff. 8-31-17.)

18 (105 ILCS 5/14-7.03) (from Ch. 122, par. 14-7.03)

19 Sec. 14-7.03. Special education classes for children from
20 orphanages, foster family homes, children's homes, or State
21 residential units. If a school district maintains special
22 education classes on the site of orphanages and children's
23 homes, or if children from the orphanages, children's homes,
24 foster family homes, other State agencies, or State
25 residential units for children attend classes for children

1 with disabilities in which the school district is a
2 participating member of a joint agreement, or if the children
3 from the orphanages, children's homes, foster family homes,
4 other State agencies, or State residential units attend
5 classes for the children with disabilities maintained by the
6 school district, then reimbursement shall be paid to eligible
7 districts in accordance with the provisions of this Section by
8 the Comptroller as directed by the State Superintendent of
9 Education.

10 The amount of tuition for such children shall be
11 determined by the actual cost of maintaining such classes,
12 using the per capita cost formula set forth in Section
13 14-7.01, such program and cost to be pre-approved by the State
14 Superintendent of Education.

15 If a school district makes a claim for reimbursement under
16 Section 18-3 of this Code it shall not include in any claim
17 filed under this Section a claim for such children. Payments
18 authorized by law, including State or federal grants for
19 education of children included in this Section, shall be
20 deducted in determining the tuition amount.

21 Nothing in this Code shall be construed so as to prohibit
22 reimbursement for the tuition of children placed in for profit
23 facilities. Private facilities shall provide adequate space at
24 the facility for special education classes provided by a
25 school district or joint agreement for children with
26 disabilities who are residents of the facility at no cost to

1 the school district or joint agreement upon request of the
2 school district or joint agreement. If such a private facility
3 provides space at no cost to the district or joint agreement
4 for special education classes provided to children with
5 disabilities who are residents of the facility, the district
6 or joint agreement shall not include any costs for the use of
7 those facilities in its claim for reimbursement.

8 Reimbursement for tuition may include the cost of
9 providing summer school programs for children with severe and
10 profound disabilities served under this Section. Claims for
11 that reimbursement shall be filed by November 1 and shall be
12 paid on or before December 15 from appropriations made for the
13 purposes of this Section.

14 The State Board of Education shall establish such rules
15 and regulations as may be necessary to implement the
16 provisions of this Section.

17 Claims filed on behalf of programs operated under this
18 Section housed in an orphanage, children's home, private
19 facility, State residential unit, district or joint agreement
20 site, jail, detention center, or county-owned shelter care
21 facility shall be on an individual student basis only for
22 eligible students with disabilities. These claims shall be in
23 accordance with applicable rules.

24 Each district claiming reimbursement for individual
25 students shall have the eligibility of those students verified
26 by the State Board of Education. On September 30, December 31,

1 and March 31, the State Board of Education shall voucher
2 payments for individual students based upon an estimated cost
3 calculated from the prior year's claim. Final claims for
4 individual students for the regular school term must be
5 received at the State Board of Education by June 15. Claims for
6 individual students received after June 15 shall not be
7 honored. Claims received by June 15 may be amended until
8 August 1. Final claims for individual students shall be
9 vouchered by August 31. However, notwithstanding any other
10 provisions of this Section or this Code, if the amount
11 appropriated for any fiscal year is less than the amount
12 required for purposes of this Section, the amount required to
13 eliminate any insufficient reimbursement for each district
14 claim under this Section shall be reimbursed on August 31 of
15 the next fiscal year. Payments required to eliminate any
16 insufficiency for prior fiscal year claims shall be made
17 before any claims are paid for the current fiscal year.

18 Regional superintendents may operate special education
19 classes for children from orphanages, foster family homes,
20 children's homes, or State residential units located within
21 the educational services region upon consent of the school
22 board otherwise so obligated. In electing to assume the powers
23 and duties of a school district in providing and maintaining
24 such a special education program, the regional superintendent
25 may enter into joint agreements with other districts and may
26 contract with public or private schools or the orphanage,

1 foster family home, children's home, or State residential unit
2 for provision of the special education program. The regional
3 superintendent exercising the powers granted under this
4 Section shall be reimbursed for the actual cost of providing
5 such programs by the resident district as defined in Section
6 14-1.11a.

7 Any child who is not a resident of Illinois who is placed
8 in a child welfare institution, private facility, foster
9 family home, State operated program, orphanage, or children's
10 home shall have the payment for his educational tuition and
11 any related services assured by the placing agent.

12 For each student with a disability who is placed in a
13 residential facility by an Illinois public agency or by any
14 court in this State, the costs for educating the student are
15 eligible for reimbursement under this Section.

16 The district of residence of the student with a disability
17 as defined in Section 14-1.11a is responsible for the actual
18 costs of the student's special education program and is
19 eligible for reimbursement under this Section when placement
20 is made by a State agency or the courts.

21 When a dispute arises over the determination of the
22 district of residence under this Section, the district or
23 districts may appeal the decision in writing to the State
24 Superintendent of Education, who, upon review of materials
25 submitted and any other items or information he or she may
26 request for submission, shall issue a written decision on the

1 matter. The decision of the State Superintendent of Education
2 shall be final.

3 In the event a district does not make a tuition payment to
4 another district that is providing the special education
5 program and services, the State Board of Education shall
6 immediately withhold 125% of the then remaining annual tuition
7 cost from the State aid or categorical aid payment due to the
8 school district that is determined to be the resident school
9 district. All funds withheld by the State Board of Education
10 shall immediately be forwarded to the school district where
11 the student is being served.

12 When a child eligible for services under this Section is
13 ~~14-7.03 must be~~ placed in a nonpublic facility, that facility
14 shall meet the programmatic requirements of Section 14-7.02
15 and its regulations, and the educational services shall be
16 funded only in accordance with this Section ~~14-7.03~~.

17 Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, when a child
18 eligible for services under this Section is placed in a
19 separate public day school, that school shall meet the
20 definition of Section 14-1.08a and the programmatic
21 requirements and rules for separate public day schools, and
22 the educational services shall be funded only in accordance
23 with this Section.

24 (Source: P.A. 101-17, eff. 6-14-19.)

25 (105 ILCS 5/21B-70)

1 Sec. 21B-70. Illinois Teaching Excellence Program.

2 (a) As used in this Section:

3 "Diverse candidate" means a candidate who identifies with
4 any of the ethnicities reported on the Illinois Report Card
5 other than White.

6 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public school in which no
7 less than 30% of the student enrollment is considered
8 low-income as reported by the report card under Section 10-17a
9 of this Code.

10 "National Board certified teacher candidate cohort
11 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
12 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting all other
13 candidate cohorts other than diverse candidate cohorts through
14 the Illinois National Board for Professional Teaching
15 Standards Comprehensive Support System.

16 "National Board certified teacher diverse candidate cohort
17 facilitator" means a National Board certified teacher who
18 collaborates to advance the goal of supporting racially and
19 ethnically diverse candidates through the Illinois National
20 Board for Professional Teaching Standards Comprehensive
21 Support System.

22 "National Board certified teacher diverse liaison" means
23 an individual or entity that supports the National Board
24 certified teacher leading a diverse candidate cohort.

25 "National Board certified teacher liaison" means an
26 individual or entity that supports the National Board

1 certified teacher leading candidate cohorts other than diverse
2 candidate cohorts.

3 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
4 distant candidate cohort facilitator" means a National Board
5 certified teacher who collaborates to advance the goal of
6 supporting rural or remote candidates through the Illinois
7 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
8 Comprehensive Support System.

9 "National Board certified teacher rural or remote or
10 distant liaison" means an individual or entity that supports
11 the National Board certified teacher leading a rural or remote
12 candidate cohort.

13 "Qualified educator" means a teacher or school counselor
14 currently employed in a school district who is in the process
15 of obtaining certification through the National Board for
16 Professional Teaching Standards or who has completed
17 certification and holds a current Professional Educator
18 License with a National Board for Professional Teaching
19 Standards designation or a retired teacher or school counselor
20 who holds a Professional Educator License with a National
21 Board for Professional Teaching Standards designation.

22 "Rural or remote" or "rural or remote or distant" means
23 local codes 32, 33, 41, 42, and 43 of the New Urban-Centric
24 Locale Codes, as defined by the National Center for Education
25 Statistics.

26 "Tier 1" has the meaning given to that term under Section

1 18-8.15.

2 "Tier 2" has the meaning given to that term under Section
3 18-8.15.

4 (b) Any funds appropriated for the Illinois Teaching
5 Excellence Program must be used to provide monetary assistance
6 and incentives for qualified educators who are employed by or
7 retired from school districts and who have or are in the
8 process of obtaining licensure through the National Board for
9 Professional Teaching Standards and for indirect costs
10 necessary for program operation. The goal of the program is to
11 improve instruction and student performance.

12 The State Board of Education shall allocate an amount as
13 annually appropriated by the General Assembly for the Illinois
14 Teaching Excellence Program for (i) application or re-take
15 fees for each qualified educator seeking to complete
16 certification through the National Board for Professional
17 Teaching Standards, to be paid directly to the National Board
18 for Professional Teaching Standards, and (ii) incentives under
19 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (c) for each
20 qualified educator, to be distributed to the respective school
21 district, and incentives under paragraph (5) of subsection
22 (c), to be distributed to the respective school district or
23 directly to the qualified educator. The school district shall
24 distribute this payment to each eligible teacher or school
25 counselor as a single payment.

26 The State Board of Education's annual budget must set out

1 by separate line item the appropriation for the program.
2 Unless otherwise provided by appropriation, qualified
3 educators are eligible for monetary assistance and incentives
4 outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of this Section.

5 (c) When there are adequate funds available, monetary
6 assistance and incentives shall include the following:

7 (1) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
8 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a Tier 1
9 school district who apply on a first-come, first-serve
10 basis for National Board certification.

11 (2) A maximum of \$2,000 toward the application or
12 re-take fee for teachers or school counselors in a school
13 district other than a Tier 1 school district who apply on a
14 first-come, first-serve basis for National Board
15 certification.

16 (3) A maximum of \$1,000 toward the National Board for
17 Professional Teaching Standards' renewal application fee.

18 (4) (Blank).

19 (5) An annual incentive of no more than \$2,250
20 prorated at \$50 per hour, which shall be paid to each
21 qualified educator currently employed in a school district
22 who holds both a National Board for Professional Teaching
23 Standards designation and a current corresponding
24 certificate issued by the National Board for Professional
25 Teaching Standards and who agrees, in writing, to provide
26 up to 45 hours of mentoring or National Board for

1 Professional Teaching Standards professional development
2 or both during the school year to classroom teachers or
3 school counselors, as applicable. Funds must be disbursed
4 on a first-come, first-serve basis, with priority given to
5 Tier 1 school districts. Mentoring shall include, either
6 singly or in combination, the following:

7 (A) National Board for Professional Teaching
8 Standards certification candidates.

9 (B) National Board for Professional Teaching
10 Standards re-take candidates.

11 (C) National Board for Professional Teaching
12 Standards renewal candidates.

13 (D) (Blank).

14 Funds may also be used for professional development
15 training ~~provided by the National Board Resource Center.~~

16 Funds may also be used for instructional leadership
17 training for qualified educators interested in supporting
18 implementation of the Illinois Learning Standards or teaching
19 and learning priorities of the State Board of Education or
20 both.

21 (d) In addition to the monetary assistance and incentives
22 provided under subsection (c), if adequate funds are
23 available, incentives shall include the following incentives
24 for the program in rural or remote schools or school districts
25 or for programs working with diverse candidates or for
26 retention bonuses for hard-to-staff schools, to be distributed

1 to the respective school district or directly to the qualified
2 educator or entity:

3 (1) A one-time incentive of \$3,000 payable to National
4 Board certified teachers teaching in Tier 1 or Tier 2
5 rural or remote school districts or rural or remote
6 schools in Tier 1 or Tier 2 school districts, with
7 priority given to teachers teaching in Tier 1 rural or
8 remote school districts or rural or remote schools in Tier
9 1 school districts.

10 (2) An annual incentive of \$3,200 for National Board
11 certified teacher rural or remote or distant candidate
12 cohort facilitators, diverse candidate cohort
13 facilitators, and candidate cohort facilitators. Priority
14 shall be given to rural or remote candidate cohort
15 facilitators and diverse candidate cohort facilitators.

16 (3) An annual incentive of \$2,500 for National Board
17 certified teacher rural or remote or distant liaisons,
18 diverse liaisons, and liaisons. Priority shall be given to
19 rural or remote liaisons and diverse liaisons.

20 (4) An annual retention bonus of up to \$4,000 per year
21 for 2 consecutive years shall be awarded to National Board
22 certified teachers employed in hard-to-staff schools.
23 Funds must be disbursed equally on an annual basis among
24 all qualified educators ~~on a first come, first served~~
25 ~~basis~~.

26 (Source: P.A. 103-122, eff. 6-30-23; 103-207, eff. 1-1-24;

1 103-605, eff. 7-1-24.)

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
3 becoming law.