



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2485

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 947/28 new

Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Creates the Developmental Promise Program to remove barriers to enrollment, academic persistence, and certificate or degree completion for students who need to complete developmental coursework. Provides that, beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, each institution of higher education in the State shall provide financial assistance to a qualifying student for the remaining balance of the student's total cost of attendance in excess of the amount of any private, State, or federal financial assistance received by the qualifying student during the first 132 semester credit hours or 198 quarter credit hours that the qualifying student is enrolled in the Developmental Assistance Program. Sets forth requirements for qualified students to receive the remaining balance of financial assistance. Requires the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and institutions of higher learning to adopt rules and policies for the administration of the Program.

LRB104 09949 LNS 20019 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 Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
5 amended by adding Section 28 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 947/28 new)

7 Sec. 28. The Developmental Promise Program.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "College-level English language or mathematics course" or
10 "college-level English language or mathematics coursework"
11 means a course that bears credit and fulfills English language
12 or mathematics credit requirements for a baccalaureate degree,
13 a certificate, or an associate degree from a postsecondary
14 educational institution.

15 "Cost of attendance" means the student's cost of attending
16 an institution of higher education that is determined by the
17 institution of higher education based on federal and State
18 policy, and includes tuition, fees, room, board, books,
19 supplies, transportation, and other allowable expenses.

20 "Developmental education coursework" means a course or a
21 category of courses in which students are placed based on an
22 institution's finding that a student does not have the
23 proficiency necessary to succeed in an introductory

1 college-level English language or mathematics course.

2 "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means a
3 public community college or university in this State.

4 "Qualifying student" means a resident of Illinois who has
5 been accepted for enrollment at an institution of higher
6 education and who:

7 (1) is enrolled in developmental education coursework;

8 (2) will be 17 years of age or older but under 27 years
9 of age at the time of financial assistance receipt;

10 (3) is from a household with a family income of
11 \$90,000 or less at the time of enrollment in developmental
12 coursework.

13 (b) The Developmental Promise Program is created by the
14 Commission. The purpose of the Program is to remove barriers
15 to enrollment, academic persistence, and certificate or degree
16 completion for students who need to complete developmental
17 coursework.

18 (1) Beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, each
19 institution of higher education in the State shall provide
20 financial assistance to a qualifying student for the
21 remaining balance of the student's total cost of
22 attendance in excess of the amount of any private, State,
23 or federal financial assistance received by the qualifying
24 student during the first 132 semester credit hours or 198
25 quarter credit hours that the qualifying student is
26 enrolled in the Developmental Promise Program.

1 (2) To receive the remaining balance of financial
2 assistance, the qualifying student must:

3 (A) complete the Free Application for Federal
4 Student Aid or request the financial assistance in
5 accordance with policies set forth by the institution;
6 and

7 (B) remain in satisfactory academic standing in
8 accordance with the academic policies of the
9 institution and make progress toward the completion of
10 the requirements of the educational program in which
11 the qualifying student is enrolled.

12 (c) The Commission shall adopt rules necessary for the
13 administration of this Section.

14 (d) Each institution shall adopt policies for the
15 administration of the Developmental Promise Program.