

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB3854**

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. John F. Curran

**SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:**

20 ILCS 505/45a new

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Requires the Department of Children and Family Services, as the State agency responsible for administering federal funds in accordance with Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, to apply to the Administration for Children and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for approval to amend the State's Family First Title IV-E Prevention Plan to implement a Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers model that allows at-risk families to access needed services through community-based referrals from organizations that offer evidence-based programs aimed at preventing foster care entry. Provides that the Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers model shall target families with children age 0 through 5 years and provide parents with child development knowledge and parenting support to help prevent child abuse and neglect. Provides that the Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers model shall be an alternative prevention strategy to the Department's traditional child protection approach by better facilitating families' accessibility to needed services, without child welfare involvement, through the integration of the existing Parents as Teachers model administered and supported by the Parents as Teachers Illinois State Office. Provides that Title IV-E funding shall be used to support and expand the network of community-based services and supports for children and families under the existing Parents as Teachers model. Requires the Department to collaborate with the Parents as Teachers Illinois State Office, the Illinois State Board of Education, and any other relevant agency in the development of the Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers model.

LRB104 17149 KTG 30568 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended  
5 by adding Section 45a as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 505/45a new)

7 Sec. 45a. Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers model;  
8 services and supports. The Department of Children and Family  
9 Services, as the State agency responsible for administering  
10 federal funds in accordance with Title IV-E of the Social  
11 Security Act, shall apply to the Administration for Children  
12 and Families within the U.S. Department of Health and Human  
13 Services for approval to amend the State's Family First Title  
14 IV-E Prevention Plan to implement a Community Pathway for  
15 Parents as Teachers model that allows at-risk families to  
16 access needed services through community-based referrals from  
17 organizations that offer evidence-based programs aimed at  
18 preventing foster care entry. The Community Pathway for  
19 Parents as Teachers model shall target families with children  
20 age 0 through 5 years and provide parents with child  
21 development knowledge and parenting support to help prevent  
22 child abuse and neglect. The Community Pathway for Parents as  
23 Teachers model shall be an alternative prevention strategy to

1 the Department's traditional child protection approach by  
2 better facilitating families' accessibility to needed  
3 services, without child welfare involvement, through the  
4 integration of the existing Parents as Teachers model  
5 administered and supported by the Parents as Teachers Illinois  
6 State Office. Title IV-E funding shall be used to support and  
7 expand the network of community-based services and supports  
8 for children and families under the existing Parents as  
9 Teachers model. The Department shall collaborate with the  
10 Parents as Teachers Illinois State Office, the Illinois State  
11 Board of Education, and any other relevant agency in the  
12 development of the Community Pathway for Parents as Teachers  
13 model.