

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 Section
5 10-20.56 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56)

7 Sec. 10-20.56. E-learning days.

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish and
9 maintain, for implementation in selected school districts a
10 ~~during the 2015-2016, 2016-2017, and 2017-2018 school years, a~~
11 ~~pilot~~ program for use of electronic-learning (e-learning)
12 days, as described in this Section. The State Superintendent of
13 Education shall select up to 3 school districts for this
14 program, at least one of which may be an elementary or unit
15 school district. ~~The use of e-learning days may not begin until~~
16 ~~the second semester of the 2015-2016 school year, and the pilot~~
17 ~~program shall conclude with the end of the 2017-2018 school~~
18 ~~year.~~ On or before June 1, 2019, the State Board shall report
19 its recommendation for expansion, revision, or discontinuation
20 of the program to the Governor and General Assembly.

21 (b) The school board of a school district selected by the
22 State Superintendent of Education under subsection (a) of this
23 Section may, by resolution, adopt a research-based program or

1 research-based programs for e-learning days district-wide that
2 shall permit student instruction to be received electronically
3 while students are not physically present in lieu of the
4 district's scheduled emergency days as required by Section
5 10-19 of this Code. The research-based program or programs may
6 not exceed the minimum number of emergency days in the approved
7 school calendar and must be submitted to the State
8 Superintendent for approval on or before September 1st annually
9 to ensure access for all students. The State Superintendent
10 shall approve programs that ensure that the specific needs of
11 all students are met, including special education students and
12 English learners, and that all mandates are still met using the
13 proposed research-based program. The e-learning program may
14 utilize the Internet, telephones, texts, chat rooms, or other
15 similar means of electronic communication for instruction and
16 interaction between teachers and students that meet the needs
17 of all learners.

18 (c) Before its adoption by a school board, a school
19 district's initial proposal for an e-learning program or for
20 renewal of such a program must be approved by the State Board
21 of Education and shall follow a public hearing, at a regular or
22 special meeting of the school board, in which the terms of the
23 proposal must be substantially presented and an opportunity for
24 allowing public comments must be provided. Notice of such
25 public hearing must be provided at least 10 days prior to the
26 hearing by:

1 (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation
2 in the school district;

3 (2) written or electronic notice designed to reach the
4 parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the school
5 district; and

6 (3) written or electronic notice designed to reach any
7 exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school
8 district employees and all those employees not in a
9 collective bargaining unit.

10 (d) A proposal for an e-learning program must be timely
11 approved by the State Board of Education if the requirements
12 specified in this Section have been met and if, in the view of
13 the State Board of Education, the proposal contains provisions
14 designed to reasonably and practicably accomplish the
15 following:

16 (1) to ensure and verify at least 5 clock hours of
17 instruction or school work for each student participating
18 in an e-learning day;

19 (2) to ensure access from home or other appropriate
20 remote facility for all students participating, including
21 computers, the Internet, and other forms of electronic
22 communication that must be utilized in the proposed
23 program;

24 (3) to ensure appropriate learning opportunities for
25 students with special needs;

26 (4) to monitor and verify each student's electronic

1 participation;

2 (5) to address the extent to which student
3 participation is within the student's control as to the
4 time, pace, and means of learning;

5 (6) to provide effective notice to students and their
6 parents or guardians of the use of particular days for
7 e-learning;

8 (7) to provide staff and students with adequate
9 training for e-learning days' participation;

10 (8) to ensure an opportunity for any collective
11 bargaining negotiations with representatives of the school
12 district's employees that would be legally required; and

13 (9) to review and revise the program as implemented to
14 address difficulties confronted.

15 The State Board of Education's approval of a school
16 district's initial e-learning program and renewal of the
17 e-learning program shall be for a term of 3 years.

18 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt rules governing
19 its supervision and review of e-learning programs consistent
20 with the provision of this Section. However, in the absence of
21 such rules, school districts may submit proposals for State
22 Board of Education consideration under the authority of this
23 Section.

24 (Source: P.A. 99-194, eff. 7-30-15; 99-642, eff. 7-28-16.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
26 becoming law.