

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 Sections  
5 10-20.83 and 34-18.78 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.83. College and career readiness systems.

8 (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, by July 1,  
9 2025, a school district that enrolls students in any of grades  
10 6 through 12 shall adopt and commence implementation of career  
11 exploration and career development activities in accordance  
12 with a postsecondary and career expectations framework for  
13 each of grades 6 through 12 served by the district that  
14 substantially aligns to the model framework adopted by State  
15 agencies pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and  
16 Workforce Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career  
17 expectations framework shall be available on a prominent  
18 location on the school district's website.

19 The career exploration and career development activities  
20 offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career  
21 expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in  
22 grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about  
23 their future education and career goals, including possible

1 participation in a career and technical education pathway, by  
2 providing students with opportunities to explore a wide  
3 variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

4 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, a school  
5 district that enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12  
6 shall become an eligible school district and either (i)  
7 independently, (ii) through an area career center, or (iii)  
8 through an inter-district cooperative, award College and  
9 Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the Postsecondary and  
10 Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the following  
11 schedule:

12 (1) for the high school graduating class of 2027, a  
13 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
14 Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

15 (2) for the high school graduating class of 2029, a  
16 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
17 Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

18 (3) for the high school graduating class of 2031, a  
19 school district with a grade 9 through 12 enrollment of  
20 more than 350 students, as calculated by the State Board  
21 of Education for the 2022-2023 school year, shall offer  
22 College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 3  
23 endorsement areas.

24 (c) The school board of any school district may, by action  
25 of the board, opt out of implementation of all or any part of  
26 this Section through adoption of a set of findings that

1 considers the following:

2 (1) the school district's current systems for college  
3 and career readiness;

4 (2) the school district's cost of implementation  
5 balanced against the potential benefits to students and  
6 families through improved postsecondary education and  
7 career outcomes;

8 (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses  
9 to partner with the school district for successful  
10 implementation of pathways other than education;

11 (4) the availability of a statewide database of  
12 participating local business partners, as provided under  
13 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the  
14 purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those  
15 work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the  
16 database to the students of the school district; and

17 (5) the availability of properly licensed teachers to  
18 instruct in the program required for the endorsement  
19 areas.

20 A school district must report its board findings and  
21 decision on implementation to the State Board of Education.

22 (d) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
23 necessary to implement this Section.

24 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.78 new)

25 Sec. 34-18.78. College and career readiness systems.

1       (a) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, by July 1,  
2       2024, the school district shall adopt and commence  
3       implementation of a postsecondary and career expectations  
4       framework for each of grades 6 through 12 that substantially  
5       aligns to the model framework adopted by State agencies  
6       pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and Workforce  
7       Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career expectations  
8       framework shall be available on a prominent location on the  
9       school district's website.

10       The career exploration and career development activities  
11       offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career  
12       expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in  
13       grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about  
14       their future education and career goals, including possible  
15       participation in a career and technical education pathway, by  
16       providing students with opportunities to explore a wide  
17       variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

18       (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, the school  
19       district shall become an eligible school district and award  
20       College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the  
21       Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the  
22       following schedule:

23               (1) for the high school graduating class of 2026, the  
24               school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
25               Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

26               (2) for the high school graduating class of 2028, the

1 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
2 Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

3 (3) for the high school graduating class of 2030, the  
4 school district shall offer College and Career Pathway  
5 Endorsements in at least 3 endorsement areas.

6 (c) The board may, by action of the board, opt out of  
7 implementation of all or any part of this Section through  
8 adoption of a set of findings that considers the following:

9 (1) the school district's current systems for college  
10 and career readiness;

11 (2) the school district's cost of implementation  
12 balanced against the potential benefits to students and  
13 families through improved postsecondary education and  
14 career outcomes;

15 (3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses  
16 to partner with the school district for successful  
17 implementation of pathways other than education;

18 (4) the availability of a statewide database of  
19 participating local business partners, as provided under  
20 the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the  
21 purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those  
22 work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the  
23 database to the students of the school district; and

24 (5) the availability of properly licensed teachers to  
25 instruct in the program required for the endorsement  
26 areas.

1       The school district must report its board findings and  
2       decision on implementation to the State Board of Education.

3       (d) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
4       necessary to implement this Section.

5           Section 10. The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act  
6       is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

7           (110 ILCS 148/15)

8           Sec. 15. Postsecondary and career expectations.

9           (a) By no later than July 1, 2017, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and  
10       ISAC, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall  
11       jointly adopt and publicize model postsecondary and career  
12       expectations for public school students in grades 8 through  
13       12. The model postsecondary and career expectations shall  
14       define activities that school districts, parents, and  
15       community-based organizations should support students in  
16       completing and related knowledge students should possess by no  
17       later than the end of each grade level. The model  
18       postsecondary and career expectations must address the  
19       following categories:

20           (1) career exploration and development;

21           (2) postsecondary institution exploration,  
22       preparation, and selection; and

23           (3) financial aid and financial literacy.

24       (b) By July 1, 2023, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and ISAC, in

1 consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall jointly  
2 adopt and publicize an update to the model postsecondary and  
3 career expectations that extends the expectations to grade 6  
4 and includes such other revisions and updates as the agencies  
5 deem appropriate.

6 (c) By July 1, 2024, ISBE shall consult with a statewide  
7 organization representing businesses and manufacturing. After  
8 consultation, ISBE shall publish and maintain on its website a  
9 current database, organized by region, of employer champions  
10 for work-based learning and career readiness systems and  
11 programs. Each employer must consent to its designation as a  
12 champion and its information being published in the database.

13 (Source: P.A. 99-674, eff. 7-29-16.)