

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 Section
5 2-3.196 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.196 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.196. Paid school social worker internships; grant
8 program.

9 (a) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, all
10 internships for school social workers must be paid
11 internships.

12 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education
13 shall award competitive grants on an annual basis to school
14 districts to assist in the funding of these paid internships.

15 (c) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education
16 shall annually disseminate a request for applications to the
17 grant program under subsection (b), and funds shall be
18 distributed annually. Higher priority shall be given to
19 schools that demonstrate a shortage of school social workers,
20 which is determined by the average ratio of school social
21 workers to students in the target school district over the
22 preceding 3 school years.

23 (d) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education

1 shall produce an annual report on the grant program in
2 cooperation with the school districts participating in the
3 program. The report shall include information on which school
4 districts received grants and how much money was disseminated.
5 This report shall be posted on the State Board of Education's
6 website by October 31, 2024 and each year thereafter.

7 (e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules
8 necessary for the implementation of this Section.

9 Section 10. The Board of Higher Education Act is amended
10 by adding Section 9.43 as follows:

11 (110 ILCS 205/9.43 new)

12 Sec. 9.43. School social worker field placement grants.

13 (a) In this Section, "racial minority" means a person who
14 is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent
15 resident immigrant of the United States and who is:

16 (1) Black;

17 (2) Hispanic;

18 (3) Asian American; or

19 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native.

20 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Board shall award
21 competitive grants on an annual basis to colleges and
22 universities in this State to fund field placements for social
23 workers.

24 (c) Subject to appropriation, colleges and universities

1 shall annually disseminate a request for applications from
2 students under the grant program under subsection (b), and
3 funds shall be distributed annually.

4 (d) Colleges and universities, upon receiving funding
5 under subsection (c), shall provide applications to students
6 eligible for this funding. A college or university shall give
7 priority to applicants who are members of a racial minority.

8 (e) Each college or university that receives funds under
9 this Section shall provide an annual report to the Board. This
10 report shall include the number of students who received funds
11 and the racial background of these students. The Board shall
12 post the report from each college or university on the Board's
13 website by October 31, 2024 and each year thereafter.

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.