

1 AN ACT concerning school students.

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 2-3.131 as follow:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.131 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.131. Safe Routes to School Program.

8 (a) The State Board of Education, in consultation with  
9 the Department of Transportation, shall establish and  
10 administer a Safe Routes to School Program to encourage  
11 parents who live close to school to let their children  
12 bicycle or walk, instead of having them driven, by improving  
13 the areas the children might use.

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall award grants from  
15 federal and State transportation funds to school districts  
16 who seek to provide bicycle facilities (such as paths),  
17 sidewalks, crossing guards, and traffic-calming measures to  
18 enable children to bicycle or walk safely to school. The  
19 State Board of Education shall annually hold a statewide  
20 competition for the award of grants and shall base an award  
21 on factors such as an area's demonstrated needs and the  
22 amount of community involvement that goes into writing a  
23 grant proposal.

24 (c) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
25 necessary to implement this Section.