

1 AN ACT relating to schools.

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

4 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
5 Section 5.625 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.625 new)

7 Sec. 5.625. The Technology Immersion Pilot Project Fund.  
8 This Section is repealed on August 31, 2007.

9 Section 10. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
10 2-3.135 as follows:

11 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.135 new)

12 Sec. 2-3.135. Technology immersion pilot project.

13 (a) The State Board of Education shall by rule establish a  
14 technology immersion pilot project to provide a wireless laptop  
15 computer to each student, teacher, and relevant administrator  
16 in a participating school and implement the use of software,  
17 on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies  
18 that have been shown to improve academic achievement and the  
19 progress measures listed in subsection (f) of this Section.

20 (b) The pilot project shall be for a period of at least 3  
21 years. The State Board shall establish a procedure and develop  
22 criteria for the administration of the pilot project. In  
23 administering the pilot project, the State Board shall:

24 (1) select participating school districts or schools;

25 (2) define the conditions for the distribution and use  
26 of laptop computers and other technologies;

27 (3) purchase and distribute laptop computers and other  
28 technologies;

29 (4) enter into contracts as necessary to implement the  
30 pilot project;

1           (5) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

2           (6) conduct a final evaluation of the pilot project.

3           (c) The Technology Immersion Pilot Project Fund is created  
4 as a special fund in the State treasury. All money in the  
5 Technology Immersion Pilot Project Fund shall be used, subject  
6 to appropriation, by the State Board for the pilot project. To  
7 implement the pilot project, the State Board may use any funds  
8 appropriated by the General Assembly for the purposes of the  
9 pilot project as well as any gift, grant, or donation given for  
10 the pilot project. The State Board may solicit and accept a  
11 gift, grant, or donation of any kind from any source, including  
12 from a foundation, private entity, governmental entity, or  
13 institution of higher education, for the implementation of the  
14 pilot project. Funds for the pilot project may not be used for  
15 the construction of a building or other facility.

16           The State Board shall use pilot project funds for the  
17 following:

18           (1) the purchase of wireless laptop computers so that  
19 each student, teacher, and relevant administrator in a  
20 participating classroom has a wireless laptop computer for  
21 use at school and at home;

22           (2) the purchase of other equipment, including  
23 additional computer hardware and software;

24           (3) the hiring of technical support staff for school  
25 districts or schools participating in the pilot project;  
26 and

27           (4) the purchase of technology-based learning  
28 materials and resources.

29           The State Board may not allocate more than \$10 million for  
30 the pilot project. The pilot project may be implemented only if  
31 sufficient funds are available under this Section for that  
32 purpose.

33           (d) A school district may apply to the State Board for the  
34 establishment of a technology immersion pilot project for the  
35 entire district or for a particular school or group of schools  
36 in the district.

1       The State Board shall select 7 school districts to  
2 participate in the pilot project. One school district shall be  
3 located in the City of Chicago, 3 school districts shall be  
4 located in the area that makes up the counties of DuPage, Kane,  
5 Lake, McHenry, Will, and that portion of Cook County that is  
6 located outside of the City of Chicago, and 3 school districts  
7 shall be located in the remainder of the State.

8       The State Board shall select the participating districts  
9 and schools for the pilot project based on each district's or  
10 school's need for the pilot project. In selecting participants,  
11 the State Board shall consider the following criteria:

12           (1) whether the district or school has limited access  
13 to educational resources that could be improved through the  
14 use of wireless laptop computers and other technologies;

15           (2) whether the district or school has the following  
16 problems and whether those problems can be mitigated  
17 through the use of wireless laptop computers and other  
18 technologies:

19                   (A) documented teacher shortages in critical  
20 areas;

21                   (B) limited access to advanced placement courses;

22                   (C) low rates of satisfactory performance on  
23 assessment instruments under Section 2-3.64 of this  
24 Code; and

25                   (D) high dropout rates;

26           (3) the district's or school's readiness to  
27 incorporate technology into its classrooms;

28           (4) the possibility of obtaining a trained technology  
29 support staff and high-speed Internet services for the  
30 district or school; and

31           (5) the methods the district or school will use to  
32 measure the progress of the pilot project in the district  
33 or school in accordance with subsection (f) of this  
34 Section.

35       The State Board shall if possible select at least 9 schools  
36 to participate in the pilot project, with at least 3 from the

1 school district located in the City of Chicago and one from  
2 each of the other school districts selected.

3 (e) Each participating school district or school shall  
4 establish a technology immersion committee to assist in  
5 developing and implementing the technology immersion pilot  
6 project.

7 The school board of a participating district or of a  
8 district in which a participating school is located shall  
9 appoint individuals to the committee. The committee may be  
10 composed of the following:

11 (1) educators;

12 (2) district-level administrators;

13 (3) community leaders;

14 (4) parents of students who attend a participating  
15 school; and

16 (5) any other individual the school board finds  
17 appropriate.

18 The committee shall develop an academic improvement plan  
19 that details how the pilot project should be implemented in the  
20 participating district or school. In developing the academic  
21 improvement plan, the committee shall consider (i) the  
22 educational problems in the district or school that could be  
23 mitigated through the implementation of the pilot project and  
24 (ii) the technological and nontechnological resources that are  
25 necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the pilot  
26 project.

27 The committee shall recommend to the school board how the  
28 pilot project funds should be used to implement the academic  
29 improvement plan. The committee may recommend annually any  
30 necessary changes in the academic improvement plan to the  
31 school board. The State Board must approve the academic  
32 improvement plan or any changes in the academic improvement  
33 plan before disbursing pilot project funds to the school board.

34 (f) The school board of each school district participating  
35 in the pilot project shall send an annual progress report to  
36 the State Board no later than August 1 of each year that the

1 district is participating in the pilot project. The report must  
2 state in detail the type of plan being used in the district or  
3 school and the effect of the pilot project on the district or  
4 school, including the following:

5 (1) the academic progress of students who are  
6 participating in the pilot project, as measured by  
7 performance on assessment instruments;

8 (2) if applicable, a comparison of student progress in  
9 a school or classroom that is participating in the pilot  
10 project as compared with student progress in the schools or  
11 classrooms in the district that are not participating in  
12 the pilot project;

13 (3) any elements of the pilot project that contribute  
14 to improved student performance on assessment instruments  
15 administered under Section 2-3.64 of this Code or any other  
16 assessment instrument required by the State Board;

17 (4) any cost savings and improved efficiency relating  
18 to school personnel and the maintenance of facilities;

19 (5) any effect on student dropout and attendance rates;

20 (6) any effect on student enrollment in higher  
21 education;

22 (7) any effect on teacher performance and retention;

23 (8) any improvement in communications among students,  
24 teachers, parents, and administrators;

25 (9) any improvement in parental involvement in the  
26 education of the parent's child;

27 (10) any effect on community involvement and support  
28 for the district or school; and

29 (11) any increased student proficiency in technologies  
30 that will help prepare the student for becoming a member of  
31 the workforce.

32 (g) Each student participating in the pilot project may  
33 retain the wireless laptop computer provided under the pilot  
34 project as long as the student is enrolled in a school in a  
35 participating school district.

36 (h) After the expiration of the 3-year pilot project, the

1 State Board shall review the pilot project based on the annual  
2 reports the State Board receives from the school board of  
3 participating school districts.

4 (i) This Section is repealed on August 31, 2007.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.