

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Vocational Academies Act.

6 Section 5. Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to integrate
7 workplace competencies and career and technical education with
8 core academic subjects.

9 Section 10. Establishment. A school district, in
10 partnership with community colleges, local employers, and
11 community-based organizations, may establish a vocational
12 academy that is eligible for a grant under this Act if the
13 vocational academy meets all of the following requirements:

14 (1) The vocational academy must have a minimum
15 5-clock-hour day and be under the direct supervision of
16 teachers.

17 (2) The vocational academy must be a 2-year school
18 within a school program for grades 10 through 12 that is
19 organized around a career theme and operated as a
20 business-education partnership.

21 (3) The vocational academy must be a career-oriented
22 program that uses the direct involvement of local employers
23 to provide students with an education and the skills needed
24 for employment.

25 (4) The vocational academy must be a standards-based
26 educational program that prepares students both
27 academically and technically for entrance into
28 postsecondary education or careers in a selected field.

29 (5) The curriculum of the vocational academy must be
30 based on the Illinois Learning Standards, and work-site
31 training must provide students with learning experiences

1 for entry-level employment in the local job market and
2 lifelong learning skills for higher education.

3 Section 15. Grants. Subject to appropriation or other
4 available federal or private funding, the State Board of
5 Education may provide grants to vocational academies that meet
6 the requirements of this Act.

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.