

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 10-16.5 and 10-16.7 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-16.5 new)

7 Sec. 10-16.5. Oath of office. Each school board member,  
8 before taking his or her seat on the board, shall take an oath  
9 of office in substantially the following form:

10 I, (name of member or successful candidate), do  
11 solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully discharge  
12 the duties of the office of member of the Board of  
13 Education (or Board of School Directors, as the case may  
14 be) of (name of school district), in accordance with the  
15 Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the  
16 State of Illinois, and the laws of the State of Illinois,  
17 to the best of my ability.

18 I further swear (or affirm) that:

19 I shall respect taxpayer interests by serving as a  
20 faithful protector of the school district's assets;

21 I shall encourage and respect the free expression of  
22 opinion by my fellow board members and others who seek a  
23 hearing before the board, while respecting the privacy of  
24 students and employees;

25 I shall recognize that a board member has no legal  
26 authority as an individual and that decisions can be made  
27 only by a majority vote at a public board meeting; and

28 I shall abide by majority decisions of the board, while  
29 retaining the right to seek changes in such decisions  
30 through ethical and constructive channels.

31 (105 ILCS 5/10-16.7 new)

1       Sec. 10-16.7. School board duties with respect to  
2 superintendent. In addition to all other powers and duties  
3 enumerated in this Article, the school board shall make all  
4 employment decisions pertaining to the superintendent. The  
5 school board shall direct, through policy, the superintendent  
6 in his or her charge of the administration of the school  
7 district, including without limitation considering the  
8 recommendations of the superintendent concerning the budget,  
9 building plans, the locations of sites, the selection,  
10 retention, and dismissal of employees, and the selection of  
11 textbooks, instructional material, and courses of study. The  
12 school board shall evaluate the superintendent in his or her  
13 administration of school board policies and his or her  
14 stewardship of the assets of the district.

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