

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 changing Section  
5 2-3.71 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71)  
7 Sec. 2-3.71. Grants for preschool educational programs.

8 (a) Preschool program.

9 (1) The State Board of Education shall implement and  
10 administer a grant program under the provisions of this  
11 subsection which shall consist of grants to public school  
12 districts and other eligible entities, as defined by the  
13 State Board of Education, to conduct voluntary preschool  
14 educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 which include  
15 a parent education component. A public school district  
16 which receives grants under this subsection may  
17 subcontract with other entities that are eligible to  
18 conduct a preschool educational program. These grants must  
19 be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from  
20 any other source.

21 (2) (Blank).

22 (3) Any teacher of preschool children in the program  
23 authorized by this subsection shall hold an early childhood

1 teaching certificate.

2 (4) This paragraph (4) applies before July 1, 2006 and  
3 after June 30, 2010 ~~2008~~. The State Board of Education  
4 shall provide the primary source of funding through  
5 appropriations for the program. Such funds shall be  
6 distributed for the benefit of children who because of  
7 their home and community environment are subject to such  
8 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that  
9 they have been determined as a result of screening  
10 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such  
11 screening procedures shall be based on criteria  
12 established by the State Board of Education.

13 (4.5) This paragraph (4.5) applies from July 1, 2006  
14 through June 30, 2010 ~~2008~~. The State Board of Education  
15 shall provide the primary source of funding through  
16 appropriations for the program. Such funds shall be  
17 distributed to achieve a goal of "Preschool for All  
18 Children" for the benefit of all children whose families  
19 choose to participate in the program. Based on available  
20 appropriations, newly funded programs shall be selected  
21 through a process giving first priority to qualified  
22 programs serving primarily at-risk children and second  
23 priority to qualified programs serving primarily children  
24 with a family income of less than 4 times the poverty  
25 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by  
26 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the

1 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For purposes of this  
2 paragraph (4.5), at-risk children are those who because of  
3 their home and community environment are subject to such  
4 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages to  
5 cause them to have been determined as a result of screening  
6 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such  
7 screening procedures shall be based on criteria  
8 established by the State Board of Education.

9 ~~On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which~~  
10 ~~the General Assembly provides funding for new programs~~  
11 ~~under this paragraph (4.5), the State Board of Education~~  
12 ~~shall report to the General Assembly on what percentage of~~  
13 ~~new funding was provided to programs serving primarily~~  
14 ~~at risk children, what percentage of new funding was~~  
15 ~~provided to programs serving primarily children with a~~  
16 ~~family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty~~  
17 ~~level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to~~  
18 ~~other programs.~~

19 (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and  
20 provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school  
21 districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate  
22 children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State  
23 Board of Education shall require school districts and other  
24 eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or  
25 guardians of children before any evaluations are  
26 conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage

1 local school districts and other eligible entities to  
2 evaluate the population of preschool children in their  
3 communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to  
4 this subsection, where appropriate.

5 (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the  
6 General Assembly by November 1, 2010 ~~July 1, 2007~~ and every  
7 3 years thereafter on the results and progress of students  
8 who were enrolled in preschool educational programs,  
9 including an assessment of which programs have been most  
10 successful in promoting academic excellence and  
11 alleviating academic failure. The State Board of Education  
12 shall assess the academic progress of all students who have  
13 been enrolled in preschool educational programs.

14 On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which  
15 the General Assembly provides funding for new programs  
16 under paragraph (4.5) of this Section, the State Board of  
17 Education shall report to the General Assembly on what  
18 percentage of new funding was provided to programs serving  
19 primarily at-risk children, what percentage of new funding  
20 was provided to programs serving primarily children with a  
21 family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty  
22 level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to  
23 other programs.

24 (b) (Blank).

25 (Source: P.A. 94-506, eff. 8-8-05; 94-1054, eff. 7-25-06.)

26 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.