

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.