

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 Grow Your Own Teacher Education Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 5, 10, 20, and 25 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 48/5)

7 Sec. 5. Purpose. The Grow Your Own Teacher preparation  
8 programs established under this Act shall comprise a major new  
9 statewide initiative, known as the Grow Your Own Teacher  
10 Education Initiative, to prepare highly skilled, committed  
11 teachers who will teach in hard-to-staff schools and  
12 hard-to-staff teaching positions and who will remain in these  
13 schools for substantial periods of time.

14 The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative shall  
15 effectively recruit and prepare parent and community leaders  
16 and paraeducators to become effective teachers statewide in  
17 hard-to-staff schools serving a substantial percentage of  
18 low-income students and hard-to-staff teaching positions in  
19 schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income  
20 students. Further, the Initiative shall increase the diversity  
21 of teachers, including diversity based on race and ethnicity~~7~~  
22 ~~and disability.~~

23 The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative shall ensure

1 educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates in  
2 accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through  
3 which graduates shall meet the requirements to secure an  
4 Illinois initial teaching certificate.

5 The goal of the Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative  
6 is to add 1,000 teachers to low-income, hard-to-staff Illinois  
7 schools by 2016 ~~with an average retention period of 7 years, as~~  
8 ~~opposed to the current rate of 2.5 years for new teachers in~~  
9 ~~such areas.~~

10 (Source: P.A. 94-979, eff. 6-30-06; 95-476, eff. 1-1-08.)

11 (110 ILCS 48/10)

12 Sec. 10. Definitions. In this Act:

13 "Accredited teacher preparation program" means a ~~State or~~  
14 regionally accredited, Illinois approved teacher education  
15 ~~higher education~~ program authorized to prepare individuals to  
16 fulfill all of the requirements to receive an Illinois initial  
17 teaching certificate.

18 "Cohort" means a group of teacher education candidates who  
19 are enrolled in and share experiences in the same program and  
20 are linked by their desire to become Illinois teachers in  
21 hard-to-staff schools and by their need for the services and  
22 supports offered by the Initiative.

23 "Community organization" means a nonprofit organization  
24 that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and  
25 organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that

1 will hold the school and the school district accountable for  
2 achieving high academic standards; in addition to  
3 organizations with a geographic focus, "community  
4 organization" includes general parent organizations,  
5 organizations of special education or bilingual education  
6 parents, and school employee unions.

7 "Developmental classes" means classes in basic skill  
8 areas, such as mathematics and language arts that are  
9 prerequisite to, but not counted towards, degree requirements  
10 of a teacher preparation program.

11 "Eligible school" means a public elementary, middle, or  
12 secondary school in this State that serves a substantial  
13 percentage of low-income students and that is either hard to  
14 staff or has hard-to-staff teaching positions.

15 "Hard-to-staff school" means a public elementary, middle,  
16 or secondary school in this State that, based on data compiled  
17 by the State Board of Education, serves a substantial  
18 percentage of low-income students, as defined by the State  
19 Board ranks in the upper third among public schools of its type  
20 (elementary, middle, or secondary) in terms of rate of  
21 attrition of its teachers.

22 "Hard-to-staff teaching position" means a teaching  
23 category (such as special education, bilingual education,  
24 mathematics, or science) in which statewide data compiled by  
25 the State Board of Education indicates a multi-year pattern of  
26 substantial teacher shortage or that has been identified as a

1 critical need by the local school board.

2 "Initiative" means the Grow Your Own Teacher Education  
3 Initiative created under this Act.

4 "Paraeducator" ~~"Paraeducators"~~ means an individual  
5 ~~individuals~~ with a history of demonstrated accomplishments in  
6 school staff positions (such as teacher assistants,  
7 school-community liaisons, school clerks, and security aides)  
8 in schools that meet the definition of a hard-to-staff school  
9 under this Section ~~servicing a substantial percentage of~~  
10 ~~low income students.~~

11 "Parent and community leader ~~leaders~~" means an individual  
12 who has or had a child enrolled in a school or schools that  
13 meet the definition of a hard-to-staff school under this  
14 Section and who has a history of active involvement in the  
15 school or who has ~~individuals with~~ a history of working to  
16 improve schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income  
17 students, including membership in a community organization.

18 ~~"Community organization" means a nonprofit organization~~  
19 ~~that has a demonstrated capacity to train, develop, and~~  
20 ~~organize parents and community leaders into a constituency that~~  
21 ~~will hold the school and the school district accountable for~~  
22 ~~achieving high academic standards; in addition to~~  
23 ~~organizations with a geographic focus, "community~~  
24 ~~organization" includes general parent organizations,~~  
25 ~~organizations of special education or bilingual education~~  
26 ~~parents, and school employee unions.~~

1 "Program" means a Grow Your Own Teacher preparation program  
2 established by a consortium under this Act.

3 "Schools serving a substantial percentage of low-income  
4 students" means schools that maintain any of grades  
5 pre-kindergarten through 8, in which at least 35% of the  
6 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches  
7 and schools that maintain any of grades 9 through 12, in which  
8 at least 25% of the students are eligible to receive free or  
9 reduced price lunches.

10 "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

11 (Source: P.A. 94-979, eff. 6-30-06; 95-476, eff. 1-1-08.)

12 (110 ILCS 48/20)

13 Sec. 20. Selection of grantees. The State Board shall award  
14 grants to qualified consortia that reflect the distribution and  
15 diversity of hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff positions  
16 across this State. In awarding grants, the State Board shall  
17 select programs that successfully address Initiative criteria  
18 and that reflect a diversity of strategies in terms of serving  
19 urban areas, serving rural areas, the nature of the  
20 participating institutions of higher education, and the nature  
21 of hard-to-staff schools and hard-to-staff teaching positions  
22 on which a program is focused.

23 The State Board shall select consortia that meet the  
24 following requirements:

25 (1) A consortium shall be composed of at least one

1 4-year institution of higher education with an Illinois  
2 approved ~~accredited~~ teacher preparation program, at least  
3 one school district or group of schools, and one or more  
4 community organizations. The consortium membership may  
5 also include a 2-year institution of higher education, ~~or~~ a  
6 school employee union, or a regional office of education ~~or~~  
7 ~~both~~.

8 (2) The 4-year institution of higher education  
9 participating in the consortium shall have past,  
10 demonstrated success in preparing teachers for elementary  
11 or secondary schools serving a substantial percentage of  
12 low-income students.

13 (3) The consortium shall focus on a clearly defined set  
14 of eligible schools that will participate in the program.  
15 The consortium shall articulate the steps that it will  
16 carry out in preparing teachers for its participating  
17 schools and in preparing teachers for one or more  
18 hard-to-staff teaching positions in those schools.

19 (4) A candidate in a program under the Initiative must  
20 hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, ~~and~~ must meet  
21 either the definition of "parent and community leader  
22 ~~leaders~~" or the definition of "paraeducator"  
23 ~~"paraeducators"~~ contained in Section 10 of this Act, must  
24 not have attended college right after high school or must  
25 have experienced an interruption in his or her college  
26 education, and does not hold a bachelor's degree.

1           (5) The consortium shall employ effective procedures  
2           for teaching the skills and knowledge needed to prepare  
3           highly competent teachers. Professional preparation shall  
4           include on-going direct experience in target schools and  
5           evaluation of this experience.

6           (6) The consortium shall offer the program to cohorts  
7           of candidates, as defined in Section 10 of this Act, ~~who~~  
8           ~~begin by moving through the program together. The program~~  
9           ~~shall be offered~~ on a schedule that enables candidates to  
10          work full time while participating in the program and  
11          allows paraeducators to continue in their current  
12          positions. In any fiscal year in which an appropriation for  
13          the Initiative is made, the consortium shall guarantee that  
14          support will be available to an admitted cohort for the  
15          cohort's education ~~training~~ for that fiscal year. At the  
16          beginning of the Initiative, programs that are already  
17          operating and existing cohorts of candidates under this  
18          model shall be eligible for funding.

19          (7) The institutions of higher education participating  
20          in the consortium shall document and agree to expend the  
21          same amount of funds in implementing the program that these  
22          institutions spend per student on similar educational  
23          programs. Grants received by the consortium shall  
24          supplement and not supplant these amounts.

25          (8) The State Board shall establish additional  
26          criteria for review of proposals, including criteria that

1 address the following issues:

2 (A) Previous experience of the institutions of  
3 higher education in preparing candidates for  
4 hard-to-staff schools and positions and in working  
5 with students with non-traditional backgrounds.

6 (B) The quality of the implementation plan,  
7 including strategies for overcoming institutional  
8 barriers to the progress of non-traditional  
9 candidates.

10 (C) If a community college is a participant, the  
11 nature and extent of existing articulation agreements  
12 and guarantees between the community college and the  
13 4-year institution of higher education.

14 (D) The number of candidates to be educated ~~trained~~  
15 in the planned cohort or cohorts and the capacity of  
16 the consortium for adding cohorts in future cycles.

17 (E) Experience of the community organization or  
18 organizations in organizing parents and community  
19 leaders to achieve school improvement and a strong  
20 relational school culture.

21 (F) The qualifications of the person or persons  
22 designated by the 4-year institution of higher  
23 education to be responsible for cohort support and the  
24 development of a shared learning and social  
25 environment among candidates.

26 (G) The consortium's plan for collective

1 consortium decision-making, involving all consortium  
2 members, including mechanisms for ~~community and~~  
3 candidate input.

4 (H) The consortium's plan for direct impact of the  
5 program on the quality of education in the eligible  
6 schools.

7 (I) The relevance of the curriculum to the needs of  
8 the eligible schools and positions, and the use in  
9 curriculum and instructional planning of principles  
10 for effective education for adults.

11 (J) The availability of classes under the program  
12 in places and times accessible to the candidates.

13 (K) Provision of a level of performance to be  
14 maintained by candidates as a condition of continuing  
15 in the program.

16 (L) The plan of the 4-year institution of higher  
17 education to ensure that candidates take advantage of  
18 existing financial aid resources before using the loan  
19 funds described in Section 25 of this Act.

20 (M) The availability of supportive services,  
21 including, but not limited to, counseling, tutoring,  
22 transportation, technology and technology support, and  
23 child care.

24 (N) A plan for continued participation of  
25 graduates of the program in a program of support for at  
26 least 2 years, including mentoring and group meetings.

1 (O) A plan for testing and qualitative evaluation  
2 of candidates' teaching skills that ensures that  
3 graduates of the program are as prepared for teaching  
4 as other individuals completing the institution of  
5 higher education's preparation program for the  
6 certificate sought.

7 (P) A plan for internal evaluation that provides  
8 reports at least yearly on the progress of candidates  
9 towards graduation and the impact of the program on the  
10 target schools and their communities.

11 (Q) Contributions from schools, school districts,  
12 and other consortia members to the program, including  
13 stipends for candidates during their student teaching.

14 (R) Consortium commitment for sustaining the  
15 program over time, as evidenced by plans for reduced  
16 requirements for external funding, in subsequent  
17 cycles.

18 (S) The inclusion in the planned program of  
19 strategies derived from community organizing that will  
20 help candidates develop tools for working with parents  
21 and other community members.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-979, eff. 6-30-06; 95-476, eff. 1-1-08.)

23 (110 ILCS 48/25)

24 Sec. 25. Expenditures under the Initiative.

25 (a) Every program under the Initiative shall implement a

1 program of forgivable loans to cover any portion of tuition,  
2 books, and fees ~~and direct expenses~~ of candidates under the  
3 program in excess of the candidates' grants-in-aid ~~and other~~  
4 ~~forgivable loans received~~. All students admitted to a cohort  
5 shall be eligible for a forgivable student loan ~~such loans~~.  
6 Loans shall be fully forgiven if a graduate completes 5 years  
7 of service in hard-to-staff schools or hard-to-staff teaching  
8 positions, with partial forgiveness for shorter periods of  
9 service. The State Board shall establish standards for the  
10 approval of requests for waivers or deferrals from individuals  
11 to waive ~~of~~ this obligation ~~for individual candidates~~. The  
12 State Board shall also define standards for the fiscal  
13 management of these loan funds.

14 (b) The State Board shall award grants ~~Grants~~ under the  
15 Initiative ~~shall be awarded~~ in such a way as to provide the  
16 required support for a cohort of candidates for any fiscal year  
17 in which an appropriation for the Initiative is made. Program  
18 budgets must show expenditures and needed funds for the entire  
19 period that candidates are expected to be enrolled.

20 (c) No funds under the Initiative may be used to supplant  
21 the average per-capita expenditures by the institution of  
22 higher education for candidates.

23 (d) Where necessary, program budgets shall include the  
24 costs of child care and other indirect expenses, such as  
25 transportation, tutoring, technology, and technology support,  
26 ~~that are~~ necessary to permit candidates to maintain their class

1 schedules. Grant funds may be used by any member of a  
2 consortium to offset such costs, and the services may be,  
3 ~~whether the needed services are~~ provided by the community  
4 organization or organizations, by any other ~~are provided by~~  
5 ~~another~~ member of the consortium, or by independent contractors  
6 ~~are independently contracted for.~~

7 (e) The institution of higher education may expend grant  
8 funds to cover the additional costs of offering classes in  
9 community settings and for tutoring services.

10 (f) The community organization or organizations may  
11 receive a portion of the grant money for the expenses of  
12 recruitment, community orientation, and counseling of  
13 potential candidates, for providing space in the community, and  
14 for working with school personnel to facilitate individual work  
15 experiences and support of candidates.

16 (g) The school district or school employee union or both  
17 may receive a portion of the grant money for expenses of  
18 supporting the work experiences of candidates and providing  
19 mentors for graduates. Notwithstanding the provisions of  
20 Section 10-20.15 of the School Code, school districts may also  
21 use these or other applicable public funds to pay participants  
22 in programs under the Initiative for student teaching required  
23 by an accredited teacher preparation program.

24 (h) One or more members ~~member~~ of the consortium may expend  
25 funds to cover the salary of a site-based cohort coordinator.

26 (i) Grant funds may also be expended to pay directly for

1 required developmental classes for candidates beginning a  
2 program.

3 (Source: P.A. 94-979, eff. 6-30-06; 95-476, eff. 1-1-08.)

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