

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 Section 5 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, including
12 within the Department of Juvenile Justice School District, and
13 hard-to-staff teaching positions and who will remain in these
14 schools for substantial periods of time.

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

1 The Grow Your Own Teacher Education Initiative shall ensure
2 educational rigor by effectively preparing candidates in
3 accredited bachelor's degree programs in teaching, through
4 which graduates shall meet the requirements to secure an
5 Illinois initial teaching certificate.

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

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