



98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2013 and 2014

HB3077

by Rep. Marcus C. Evans, Jr.

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

110 ILCS 805/3-45

from Ch. 122, par. 103-45

Creates the Statewide Dropout Reengagement System Act. Requires the State Board of Education to create a statewide dropout reengagement system to provide appropriate educational opportunities and access to services for students ages 16 to 21 years who have dropped out of high school or are not accumulating sufficient credits to reasonably complete a high school diploma in a public school before the age of 21 years. Provides that under the system, school districts may (i) enter into a model interlocal agreement with a public community college or other public entity to provide a dropout reengagement program for eligible students of the district or (ii) enter into a model contract with a community-based organization to provide a dropout reengagement program for eligible students of the district. Requires the State Board to develop a model interlocal agreement and a model contract for the dropout reengagement system; sets forth what the agreement and contract must address. Contains provisions concerning student enrollment and rulemaking. Amends the Public Community College Act to provide that the board of trustees of a community college district may not require tuition of students enrolled in a dropout reengagement program.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Statewide Dropout Reengagement System Act.

6 Section 5. Findings; legislative intent.

7 (a) The General Assembly makes the following findings:

8 (1) In every school district there are older youth who
9 have become disengaged with the traditional education
10 program of public high schools. They may have failed
11 multiple classes and are far behind in accumulating credits
12 to graduate. They do not see a high school diploma as an
13 achievable goal. They may have dropped out of school
14 entirely. They are not likely to become reengaged in their
15 education by the prospect of reenrollment in a traditional
16 or even an alternative high school.

17 (2) For many years, school districts, public community
18 colleges, and community-based organizations have created
19 partnerships to provide appropriate educational programs
20 for these students. Programs such as career education
21 options and career links have successfully offered
22 individualized academic instruction, case management
23 support, and career-oriented skills in an age-appropriate

1 learning environment to hundreds of disengaged older
2 youth. Preparation for the General Educational Development
3 test is provided but is not the end goal for these
4 students.

5 (3) In recent years, many of these partnerships have
6 ceased to operate. The laws and rules authorizing school
7 districts to contract using basic education allocations do
8 not provide sufficient guidance and instead present
9 barriers. Program providers are forced to adapt to rules
10 that were not written to address the needs of the students
11 being served. Questions and concerns about liability,
12 responsibility, and administrative burdens have caused
13 districts to reluctantly abandon their partnerships and,
14 consequently, leave hundreds of students without a viable
15 alternative for continuing their public education.

16 (b) The General Assembly intends to provide a statutory
17 framework to support a statewide dropout reengagement system
18 for older youth. The framework clarifies and standardizes
19 funding, programs, and administration by directing the State
20 Board of Education to develop model contracts and interlocal
21 agreements. It is the General Assembly's intent to encourage
22 school districts, public community colleges, and
23 community-based organizations to participate in this system
24 and provide appropriate instruction and services to reengage
25 older students and help them make progress toward a meaningful
26 credential and career skills.

1 Section 10. Definitions. Unless the context clearly
2 requires otherwise, in this Act:

3 "Dropout reengagement program" means an educational
4 program that offers at least the following instruction and
5 services:

6 (1) Academic instruction, including without limitation
7 General Educational Development (GED) test preparation,
8 academic skills instruction, and college and work
9 readiness preparation, that generates credits that can be
10 applied to a high school diploma from the student's school
11 district or a GED certificate and has the goal of enabling
12 the student to obtain the academic and work readiness
13 skills necessary for employment or postsecondary study. A
14 dropout reengagement program is not required to offer
15 instruction in only those subject areas where a student is
16 deficient in accumulated credits. Academic instruction
17 must be provided by teachers licensed under the School Code
18 or by instructors employed by a public community college
19 whose required credentials are established by the college.

20 (2) Case management, academic and career counseling,
21 and assistance with accessing services and resources that
22 support at-risk youth and reduce barriers to educational
23 success.

24 (3) If the program provider is a public community
25 college, the opportunity for qualified students to enroll

1 in college courses that lead to a postsecondary degree or
2 certificate. The college may not charge an eligible student
3 tuition for such enrollment.

4 "Eligible student" means a student who meets all of the
5 following qualifications:

6 (1) Is at least 16 but less than 21 years of age at the
7 beginning of the school year.

8 (2) Is not accumulating sufficient credits toward a
9 high school diploma to reasonably complete a high school
10 diploma from a public school before the age of 21 years or
11 is recommended for the program by case managers from the
12 Department of Children and Family Services or the juvenile
13 justice system.

14 (3) Is enrolled or enrolls in the school district in
15 which the student resides or is enrolled or enrolls in a
16 nonresident school district under subsection (c) of
17 Section 15 of this Act.

18 "Full-time equivalent eligible student" means an eligible
19 student whose enrollment and attendance meet criteria adopted
20 by the State Board specifically for dropout reengagement
21 programs. The criteria shall be (1) based on the community
22 college credits generated by the student if the program
23 provider is a community college and (ii) based on a minimum
24 amount of planned programming or instruction and minimum
25 attendance by the student, rather than hours of seat time, if
26 the program provider is a community-based organization.

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

2 Section 15. Statewide dropout reengagement system.

3 (a) The State Board shall create a statewide dropout
4 reengagement system to provide appropriate educational
5 opportunities and access to services for students ages 16 to 21
6 years who have dropped out of high school or are not
7 accumulating sufficient credits to reasonably complete a high
8 school diploma in a public school before the age of 21 years.

9 (b) Under the system, school districts may do either of the
10 following:

11 (1) Enter into the model interlocal agreement
12 developed under Section 20 of this Act with a public
13 community college or other public entity to provide a
14 dropout reengagement program for eligible students of the
15 district.

16 (2) Enter into the model contract developed under
17 Section 20 of this Act with a community-based organization
18 to provide a dropout reengagement program for eligible
19 students of the district.

20 (c) If a school district does not enter an interlocal
21 agreement or contract with a public community college, other
22 public entity, or community-based organization to provide a
23 dropout reengagement program for eligible students residing in
24 the district, the community college, other public entity, or
25 community-based organization may petition a school district

1 other than the resident school district to enroll the eligible
2 students and enter into the interlocal agreement or contract
3 with the petitioning entity to provide a dropout reengagement
4 program for the eligible students.

5 (d) This Section does not affect the authority of school
6 districts to offer dropout reengagement programs or other
7 educational services to eligible students directly.

8 Section 20. Model interlocal agreement and contract.

9 (a) The State Board shall develop a model interlocal
10 agreement and a model contract for the dropout reengagement
11 system.

12 (b) The model interlocal agreement and contract shall, at a
13 minimum, address the following:

14 (1) The responsibilities for identification, referral,
15 and enrollment of eligible students.

16 (2) Instruction and services to be provided by a
17 dropout reengagement program, as specified in the
18 definition of "dropout reengagement program" under Section
19 10 of this Act.

20 (3) The responsibilities for data collection and
21 reporting, including student transcripts and data required
22 for the statewide longitudinal data system.

23 (4) Administration of high school statewide student
24 assessments.

25 (5) Uniform financial reimbursement rates per

1 full-time equivalent eligible student enrolled in a
2 dropout reengagement program, calculated and allocated as
3 a statewide annual average of the basic education
4 allocations for nonvocational students and including
5 enhancements for vocational students if eligible students
6 are enrolled in vocational courses in a program, and
7 allowing for a uniform administrative fee to be retained by
8 the district.

9 (6) The responsibilities for provision of special
10 education or related services for eligible children with
11 disabilities who have an individualized educational
12 program.

13 (7) The responsibilities for necessary accommodations
14 and plans for students qualifying under Section 504 of the
15 federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

16 (8) Minimum instructional staffing ratios for dropout
17 reengagement programs offered by community-based
18 organizations, which are not required to be the same as for
19 other basic education programs in school districts.

20 (9) Performance measures that must be reported to the
21 State Board in a common format for purposes of
22 accountability, including longitudinal monitoring of
23 student progress and postsecondary education and
24 employment.

25 Section 25. Student enrollment. Eligible students enrolled

1 in a dropout reengagement program under this Act are considered
2 regularly enrolled students of the school district in which
3 they are enrolled.

4 Section 90. Rules.

5 (a) The State Board shall adopt rules to implement this
6 Act.

7 (b) When adopting rules under this Section and developing
8 model interlocal agreements and contracts under Section 20 of
9 this Act, the State Board shall consult with the Illinois
10 Community College Board, the Department of Commerce and
11 Economic Opportunity, colleges and community-based
12 organizations that have previously offered dropout
13 reengagement programs, providers of online courses and
14 programs, and school districts.

15 Section 95. The Public Community College Act is amended by
16 changing Section 3-45 as follows:

17 (110 ILCS 805/3-45) (from Ch. 122, par. 103-45)

18 Sec. 3-45. Notwithstanding any provision of this Article to
19 the contrary, a community college board may require tuition of
20 students as provided in Section 6-4 of this Act. However, the
21 board may not require tuition of students enrolled in a dropout
22 reengagement program through an interlocal agreement between a
23 school district and the community college under the Statewide

1 Dropout Reengagement System Act.

2 (Source: P.A. 78-669.)