

AN ACT in relation to education.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section
2-3.25o as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/2-3.25o new)

Sec. 2-3.25o. Registration and recognition of non-public
elementary and secondary schools.

(a) Findings. The General Assembly finds and declares
(i) that the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides
that a "fundamental goal of the People of the State is the
educational development of all persons to the limits of their
capacities" and (ii) that the educational development of
every school student serves the public purposes of the State.
In order to ensure that all Illinois students and teachers
have the opportunity to enroll and work in State-approved
educational institutions and programs, the State Board of
Education shall provide for the voluntary registration and
recognition of non-public elementary and secondary schools.

(b) Registration. All non-public elementary and
secondary schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily
register with the State Board of Education on an annual
basis. Registration shall be completed in conformance with
procedures prescribed by the State Board of Education.
Information required for registration shall include
assurances of compliance (i) with federal and State laws
regarding health examination and immunization, attendance,
length of term, and nondiscrimination and (ii) with
applicable fire and health safety requirements.

(c) Recognition. All non-public elementary and
secondary schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily

seek the status of "Non-public School Recognition" from the State Board of Education. This status may be obtained by compliance with administrative guidelines and review procedures as prescribed by the State Board of Education. The guidelines and procedures must recognize that some of the aims and the financial bases of non-public schools are different from public schools and will not be identical to those for public schools, nor will they be more burdensome. The guidelines and procedures must also recognize the diversity of non-public schools and shall not impinge upon the noneducational relationships between those schools and their clientele.

(d) Public purposes. The provisions of this Section are in the public interest, for the public benefit, and serve secular public purposes.

(e) Definition. For purposes of this Section, a non-public school means any non-profit, non-home-based, and non-public elementary or secondary school that is in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and attendance at which satisfies the requirements of Section 26-1 of this Code.

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