

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 26-2a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/26-2a) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-2a)

7 Sec. 26-2a. A "truant" is defined as a child who is subject  
8 to compulsory school attendance and who is absent without valid  
9 cause, as defined under this Section, from such attendance for  
10 more than 1% but less than 5% of the past 180 school days ~~a~~  
11 ~~school day or portion thereof.~~

12 "Valid cause" for absence shall be illness, observance of a  
13 religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family  
14 emergency, and shall include such other situations beyond the  
15 control of the student as determined by the board of education  
16 in each district, or such other circumstances which cause  
17 reasonable concern to the parent for the safety or health of  
18 the student.

19 "Chronic or habitual truant" shall be defined as a child  
20 who is subject to compulsory school attendance and who is  
21 absent without valid cause from such attendance for 5% or more  
22 of the previous 180 regular attendance days.

23 "Truant minor" is defined as a chronic truant to whom

1 supportive services, including prevention, diagnostic,  
2 intervention and remedial services, alternative programs and  
3 other school and community resources have been provided and  
4 have failed to result in the cessation of chronic truancy, or  
5 have been offered and refused.

6 A "dropout" is defined as any child enrolled in grades 9  
7 through 12 whose name has been removed from the district  
8 enrollment roster for any reason other than the student's  
9 death, extended illness, removal for medical non-compliance,  
10 expulsion, aging out, graduation, or completion of a program of  
11 studies and who has not transferred to another public or  
12 private school and is not known to be home-schooled by his or  
13 her parents or guardians or continuing school in another  
14 country.

15 "Religion" for the purposes of this Article, includes all  
16 aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as  
17 belief.

18 (Source: P.A. 96-1423, eff. 8-3-10; 97-218, eff. 7-28-11.)

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,  
20 2018.