

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 2-3.71 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71)
7 Sec. 2-3.71. Grants for preschool educational programs.

8 (a) Preschool program.

9 (1) The State Board of Education shall implement and
10 administer a grant program under the provisions of this
11 subsection which shall consist of grants to public school
12 districts and other eligible entities, as defined by the
13 State Board of Education, to conduct voluntary preschool
14 educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 which include
15 a parent education component. A public school district
16 which receives grants under this subsection may
17 subcontract with other entities that are eligible to
18 conduct a preschool educational program. These grants must
19 be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from
20 any other source.

21 (2) (Blank).

22 (3) Any teacher of preschool children in the program
23 authorized by this subsection shall hold an early childhood
24 teaching certificate.

25 (4) This paragraph (4) applies before July 1, 2006 and
26 after June 30, 2008. The State Board of Education shall
27 provide the primary source of funding through
28 appropriations for the ~~this~~ program. Such funds shall be
29 distributed for the benefit of children who because of
30 their home and community environment are subject to such
31 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that
32 they have been determined as a result of screening

1 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such
2 screening procedures shall be based on criteria
3 established by the State Board of Education.

4 (4.5) This paragraph (4.5) applies from July 1, 2006
5 through June 30, 2008. The State Board of Education shall
6 provide the primary source of funding through
7 appropriations for the program. Such funds shall be
8 distributed to achieve a goal of "Preschool for All
9 Children" for the benefit of all children whose families
10 choose to participate in the program. Based on available
11 appropriations, newly funded programs shall be selected
12 through a process giving first priority to qualified
13 programs serving primarily at-risk children and second
14 priority to qualified programs serving primarily children
15 with a family income of less than 4 times the poverty
16 guidelines updated periodically in the Federal Register by
17 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the
18 authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For purposes of this
19 paragraph (4.5), at-risk children are those who because of
20 their home and community environment are subject to such
21 language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages to
22 cause them to have been determined as a result of screening
23 procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such
24 screening procedures shall be based on criteria
25 established by the State Board of Education.

26 On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which
27 the General Assembly provides funding for new programs
28 under this paragraph (4.5), the State Board of Education
29 shall report to the General Assembly on what percentage of
30 new funding was provided to programs serving primarily
31 at-risk children, what percentage of new funding was
32 provided to programs serving primarily children with a
33 family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty
34 level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to
35 other programs.

36 (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and

1 provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school
2 districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate
3 children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State
4 Board of Education shall require school districts and other
5 eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or
6 guardians of children before any evaluations are
7 conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage
8 local school districts and other eligible entities to
9 evaluate the population of preschool children in their
10 communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to
11 this subsection, where appropriate.

12 (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the
13 General Assembly by July 1, 2007 ~~1989~~ and every 3 years
14 thereafter, on the results and progress of students who
15 were enrolled in preschool educational programs, including
16 an assessment of which programs have been most successful
17 in promoting academic excellence and alleviating academic
18 failure. The State Board of Education shall assess the
19 academic progress of all students who have been enrolled in
20 preschool educational programs.

21 (b) (Blank).

22 (Source: P.A. 94-506, eff. 8-8-05.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
24 2006.