



Rep. Terra Costa Howard

**Filed: 4/8/2025**

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LRB104 10155 LNS 25154 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2827

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 2827, AS AMENDED,  
3 by replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
6 Homeschool Act.

7 Section 5. Application. Nothing in this Act applies to  
8 schools registered or recognized under Section 2-3.25 of the  
9 School Code.

10 Section 10. Findings. The General Assembly finds:

11 (1) Homeschool is a viable alternative to public  
12 education when engaged in good faith and for the benefit  
13 of students.

14 (2) Homeschool is currently the fastest growing form  
15 of education in the United States, yet the true number of

1 homeschool students is unknown and will continue to be  
2 unknown without notification.

3 (3) Abusers in this State have taken advantage of a  
4 lack of notification to remove vulnerable students from  
5 the supervision of mandatory reporters under the false  
6 pretense of homeschool.

7 (4) When abusers take students out of school under the  
8 false pretense of homeschool, it conflates legitimate  
9 homeschool with abuse and threatens the rights of those  
10 families who homeschool in good faith and for the benefit  
11 of their students.

12 (5) The State does not have an adequate system to  
13 further investigate signs of abuse once the abuser claims  
14 the removal of a vulnerable student from the supervision  
15 of mandatory reporters was under the false pretense of  
16 homeschool.

17 (6) The State's lack of process to investigate signs  
18 of abuse further delegitimizes homeschool as a viable  
19 alternative to public school.

20 (7) A notification process and investigation of  
21 educational neglect only after there is reasonable cause  
22 to believe a student is suffering from educational neglect  
23 is the least restrictive way for the State to protect  
24 vulnerable students removed from the presence of mandatory  
25 reporters under the false pretense of homeschool.

1 Section 15. Definitions. As used in this Act:

2 "Adequate education" means an education that fulfills the  
3 minimum requirements under Sections 26-1 and 27-1 of the  
4 School Code.

5 "Board" means the State Board of Education.

6 "Department" means the Department of Children and Family  
7 Services.

8 "Educational portfolio" means documentation of homeschool  
9 instruction and a student's educational progress. "Educational  
10 portfolio" includes:

11 (1) a log of curriculum and materials used;

12 (2) samples of student work;

13 (3) administrator assessment of a student's progress,  
14 areas of improvement, or areas of needed improvement; and

15 (4) any other information designed to convey the  
16 instruction provided to the student and the student's  
17 engagement with the instruction provided.

18 "Homeschool" means a program where instruction is provided  
19 in a student's home environment and which may have more than  
20 one student so long as all students in the homeschool are  
21 members of the same household, except that students in  
22 homeschool are deemed private school children for the sole  
23 purpose of providing equitable services using proportionate  
24 share funds under the federal Individuals with Disabilities  
25 Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400. "Homeschool" does not mean a  
26 group of 2 or more households who provide full-time

1 instruction to students of separate households under a  
2 cooperative agreement or communal living arrangement.

3 "Homeschool administrator" or "administrator" means the  
4 person providing instruction to the student. "Homeschool  
5 administrator" or "administrator" includes the parent,  
6 guardian, member of the student's household, or a third party  
7 engaged for the purpose of providing instruction. "Homeschool  
8 administrator" or "administrator" does not include a third  
9 party who created, developed, or published the curriculum used  
10 by the homeschool and who has no direct interaction with the  
11 student or control over the delivery of the instruction.

12 "Homeschool notification form" or "notification form"  
13 means information submitted to a public school in a form  
14 prescribed by the State Board of Education.

15 "Regional superintendent" means the general superintendent  
16 of schools or a designee of the superintendent for a school  
17 district organized under Article 34 of the School Code.

18 "School district" means any school district other than  
19 those school districts organized under Article 34 of the  
20 School Code.

21 "Student" or "students" means a minor receiving an  
22 education in the home environment, unless otherwise indicated  
23 by context.

24 "Student's address" means the student's residence and, if  
25 different, the place at which the student is physically  
26 present while receiving the majority of instruction.

1 Section 20. Form of notification.

2 (a) The Board shall create a homeschool notification form  
3 that a parent or guardian shall submit to the regional office  
4 of education, intermediate service center, or regional  
5 superintendent for the area in which the student resides. The  
6 notification form shall be published in a downloadable and  
7 printable format on the Board's website no later than June 1,  
8 2026.

9 (1) The notification form shall be submitted for each  
10 student attending homeschool and must include:

11 (A) the student's name, birthdate, grade level,  
12 and address;

13 (B) the name and contact information of the  
14 student's parent or guardian;

15 (C) the name, contact information, and address of  
16 the administrator if different than the parent or  
17 guardian; and

18 (D) the highest level of education achieved by the  
19 administrator or administrators who are not the  
20 student's parent.

21 (2) The notification form may include:

22 (A) occupation and educational level of the parent  
23 or parents;

24 (B) any curriculum purchased or used for the  
25 homeschool; and

1 (C) whether a homeschool intends to enroll the  
2 student or students part time at a public school,  
3 receive public school supplementary resources, or  
4 participate in public school or regional events.

5 (b) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, a parent or  
6 guardian who homeschools the parent's or guardian's student  
7 shall submit the notification form before September 1 of each  
8 year. However, a parent or guardian who chooses to homeschool  
9 in the middle of a school year shall submit the form no later  
10 than 3 business days following the date at which the student  
11 last attended school.

12 (c) A parent or guardian shall submit an updated  
13 notification form within 10 business days after a change in a  
14 student's address or residence.

15 (d) A notification form is deemed submitted when it is  
16 submitted electronically or physically to the regional office  
17 of education, intermediate service center, or regional  
18 superintendent associated with the student's residence in a  
19 manner designated by that entity. A regional office of  
20 education, intermediate service center, or regional  
21 superintendent may accept but must not require electronic  
22 submission. The receiving entity shall provide proof of  
23 receipt to the homeschool submitting the notification form.

24 Section 25. Storage and record keeping.

25 (a) A notification form submitted to the incorrect

1 regional office of education, intermediate service center, or  
2 regional superintendent shall either be transferred to the  
3 correct regional office of education, intermediate service  
4 center, or regional superintendent associated with the  
5 student's residence at the parent or guardian's request or  
6 returned to the parent and guardian with notice of the correct  
7 submission location. Receipt of the transferred or rejected  
8 form shall be provided to the homeschool.

9 (b) A public school or school district shall only retain a  
10 copy of the notification form if the homeschool parent or  
11 guardian requests that the record be retained by the public  
12 school or school district.

13 (c) The regional office of education, intermediate service  
14 center, or regional superintendent shall retain a record of  
15 each notification form for not less than 5 years.

16 (d) Individual homeschool notification forms are not  
17 subject to disclosure or inspection under the Freedom of  
18 Information Act.

19 Section 30. Accusation of truancy. There exists a  
20 rebuttable presumption that a student is not truant under  
21 Sections 26-10 and 26-11 of the School Code if a homeschool  
22 notification form was submitted in accordance with Section 20.

23 Section 35. Notification form required for access to  
24 public school resources.

1 (a) If a homeschool wishes to access public school  
2 resources, the homeschool must submit the notification form to  
3 the public school, school district, regional office of  
4 education, intermediate service center, or regional  
5 superintendent associated with the student's residence.

6 (b) A public school or school district receiving a  
7 notification form that indicates a homeschool's wish to access  
8 public school or school district resources shall:

9 (1) retain a copy of the notification form for the  
10 length of time the student is enrolled part time or  
11 receiving access to public school or school district  
12 resources and events;

13 (2) unless otherwise prohibited by law, require proof  
14 of residence before providing public school or school  
15 district resources;

16 (3) unless otherwise prohibited by law, require proof  
17 of residence, immunization records, and health screenings  
18 as a prerequisite to enroll a homeschool student part time  
19 or attend public school or school district events; and

20 (4) include any student enrolled part time or  
21 receiving resources or access to public school or school  
22 district events included in its enrollment count.

23 Section 40. Homeschool administrator qualifications.

24 (a) A homeschool administrator may have a high school  
25 diploma or its recognized equivalent. An administrator

1 currently or formerly enrolled in an institution of higher  
2 education is sufficient to satisfy this requirement.

3 (b) An administrator other than the student's parent must  
4 not have a conviction under Section 11-1.20, 11-1.30, 11-1.40,  
5 11-1.50, or 11-1.60 of the Criminal Code of 2012 or any other  
6 conviction requiring registration under the Sex Offender  
7 Registration Act.

8 Section 45. Youth under the custody and guardianship of  
9 the Department of Children and Family Services. Consent must  
10 be obtained from the Department's Guardian Administrator prior  
11 to a homeschool notification form being submitted under  
12 Section 20 for all youth under the custody and guardianship of  
13 the Department. Nothing in this Act supersedes the Guardian  
14 Administrator's authority and discretion to approve or deny  
15 whether a youth under the custody or guardianship of the  
16 Department may participate in a homeschool program.

17 Section 50. Minimum content requirements. Homeschools  
18 shall provide every student enrolled in homeschool instruction  
19 sufficient content to satisfy the requirements of Sections  
20 26-1 and 27-1 of the School Code.

21 Section 55. Educational portfolio required. A truant  
22 officer may request an educational portfolio as part of a  
23 truancy investigation. The homeschool must produce an

1 educational portfolio no later than 10 business days after the  
2 request is made.

3 Section 60. Department of Children and Family Services;  
4 investigation.

5 (a) The Department shall take the following actions after  
6 a report is "indicated" following a preliminary determination  
7 made under Section 7.12 of the Abused and Neglected Child  
8 Reporting Act.

9 (1) A report of truancy shall be referred to the  
10 relevant regional office of education, intermediate  
11 service center, or regional superintendent.

12 (2) A report of abuse and neglect that includes  
13 truancy shall be investigated by and remain under the  
14 authority of the Department. The Department shall alert  
15 the relevant regional office of education, intermediate  
16 service center, or regional superintendent that truancy  
17 has been connected to a Department investigation. The  
18 relevant truant officer shall conduct a truancy  
19 investigation under Article 26 of the School Code.

20 (b) A report of truancy or educational neglect that has  
21 been referred or made to a regional office of education,  
22 intermediate service center, or regional superintendent shall  
23 be further investigated by a truant officer. If the truant  
24 officer finds evidence that supports a reasonable cause to  
25 believe the student is suffering educational neglect or not

1 receiving an adequate education, the truant officer shall  
2 refer the case to the relevant State Attorney's office for  
3 further action. If, during the course of investigating  
4 educational neglect, the truant officer suspects other forms  
5 of neglect or abuse, the truant officer shall refer the case to  
6 the Department, or to local law enforcement in the case of an  
7 immediate risk to the life of the student.

8 Section 65. Assessment of a submitted educational  
9 portfolio.

10 (a) An educational portfolio submitted by a parent or  
11 guardian under of Section 55 shall be assessed by the regional  
12 office of education, intermediate service center, or regional  
13 superintendent associated with the child's residence.

14 (b) The assessment shall be provided to the homeschool. If  
15 the educational portfolio does not include all required  
16 elements, the homeschool shall be provided an opportunity and  
17 instruction on how to correct the deficiency.

18 (c) If the homeschool refuses to correct the deficiency,  
19 the regional office of education, intermediate service center,  
20 or regional superintendent shall refer the matter to the  
21 relevant State's Attorney or Department investigator only if  
22 there is reasonable cause to believe that the educational  
23 portfolio indicates educational neglect.

24 Section 70. Failure to submit educational portfolio. If a

1 parent or guardian fails or refuses to provide an educational  
2 portfolio when required under Section 55 or when requested by  
3 the truancy officer upon reasonable belief that the student is  
4 suffering educational neglect or not receiving an adequate  
5 education, the truancy officer shall refer the case to the  
6 relevant State's Attorney for further action.

7 Section 75. Reports.

8 (a) On or before July 31, 2027 and on or before July 31 of  
9 every year thereafter, every regional office of education and  
10 intermediate service center and a school district organized  
11 under Article 34 of the School Code must make an annual report  
12 to the State Superintendent of Education containing data on  
13 homeschooling. The report shall include the total count of  
14 students receiving homeschooling that reside within each  
15 school district's boundaries for that regional office of  
16 education or intermediate service center and the total count  
17 of students receiving homeschooling that reside within the  
18 boundaries of a school district organized under Article 34 of  
19 the School Code. The report shall also break down by grade  
20 level and gender the number of students being homeschooled  
21 within each school district's boundaries for that regional  
22 office of education or intermediate service center or within a  
23 school district organized under Article 34 of the School Code.

24 (b) On or before February 1, 2028 and on or before February  
25 1 of every year thereafter, the State Board of Education shall

1 create a report consisting of the data reported under  
2 subsection (a) and submit the report to the General Assembly.  
3 The report shall also outline the total count of students  
4 receiving homeschooling in each regional office of education,  
5 intermediate service center, and school district.

6 Section 80. Rules. The State Board of Education may adopt  
7 any rules necessary to implement and administer this Act.

8 Section 900. The Freedom of Information Act is amended by  
9 changing Section 7.5 as follows:

10 (5 ILCS 140/7.5)

11 Sec. 7.5. Statutory exemptions. To the extent provided for  
12 by the statutes referenced below, the following shall be  
13 exempt from inspection and copying:

14 (a) All information determined to be confidential  
15 under Section 4002 of the Technology Advancement and  
16 Development Act.

17 (b) Library circulation and order records identifying  
18 library users with specific materials under the Library  
19 Records Confidentiality Act.

20 (c) Applications, related documents, and medical  
21 records received by the Experimental Organ Transplantation  
22 Procedures Board and any and all documents or other  
23 records prepared by the Experimental Organ Transplantation

1 Procedures Board or its staff relating to applications it  
2 has received.

3 (d) Information and records held by the Department of  
4 Public Health and its authorized representatives relating  
5 to known or suspected cases of sexually transmitted  
6 infection or any information the disclosure of which is  
7 restricted under the Illinois Sexually Transmitted  
8 Infection Control Act.

9 (e) Information the disclosure of which is exempted  
10 under Section 30 of the Radon Industry Licensing Act.

11 (f) Firm performance evaluations under Section 55 of  
12 the Architectural, Engineering, and Land Surveying  
13 Qualifications Based Selection Act.

14 (g) Information the disclosure of which is restricted  
15 and exempted under Section 50 of the Illinois Prepaid  
16 Tuition Act.

17 (h) Information the disclosure of which is exempted  
18 under the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act, and  
19 records of any lawfully created State or local inspector  
20 general's office that would be exempt if created or  
21 obtained by an Executive Inspector General's office under  
22 that Act.

23 (i) Information contained in a local emergency energy  
24 plan submitted to a municipality in accordance with a  
25 local emergency energy plan ordinance that is adopted  
26 under Section 11-21.5-5 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

1           (j) Information and data concerning the distribution  
2 of surcharge moneys collected and remitted by carriers  
3 under the Emergency Telephone System Act.

4           (k) Law enforcement officer identification information  
5 or driver identification information compiled by a law  
6 enforcement agency or the Department of Transportation  
7 under Section 11-212 of the Illinois Vehicle Code.

8           (l) Records and information provided to a residential  
9 health care facility resident sexual assault and death  
10 review team or the Executive Council under the Abuse  
11 Prevention Review Team Act.

12           (m) Information provided to the predatory lending  
13 database created pursuant to Article 3 of the Residential  
14 Real Property Disclosure Act, except to the extent  
15 authorized under that Article.

16           (n) Defense budgets and petitions for certification of  
17 compensation and expenses for court appointed trial  
18 counsel as provided under Sections 10 and 15 of the  
19 Capital Crimes Litigation Act (repealed). This subsection  
20 (n) shall apply until the conclusion of the trial of the  
21 case, even if the prosecution chooses not to pursue the  
22 death penalty prior to trial or sentencing.

23           (o) Information that is prohibited from being  
24 disclosed under Section 4 of the Illinois Health and  
25 Hazardous Substances Registry Act.

26           (p) Security portions of system safety program plans,

1 investigation reports, surveys, schedules, lists, data, or  
2 information compiled, collected, or prepared by or for the  
3 Department of Transportation under Sections 2705-300 and  
4 2705-616 of the Department of Transportation Law of the  
5 Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, the Regional  
6 Transportation Authority under Section 2.11 of the  
7 Regional Transportation Authority Act, or the St. Clair  
8 County Transit District under the Bi-State Transit Safety  
9 Act (repealed).

10 (q) Information prohibited from being disclosed by the  
11 Personnel Record Review Act.

12 (r) Information prohibited from being disclosed by the  
13 Illinois School Student Records Act.

14 (s) Information the disclosure of which is restricted  
15 under Section 5-108 of the Public Utilities Act.

16 (t) (Blank).

17 (u) Records and information provided to an independent  
18 team of experts under the Developmental Disability and  
19 Mental Health Safety Act (also known as Brian's Law).

20 (v) Names and information of people who have applied  
21 for or received Firearm Owner's Identification Cards under  
22 the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act or applied for  
23 or received a concealed carry license under the Firearm  
24 Concealed Carry Act, unless otherwise authorized by the  
25 Firearm Concealed Carry Act; and databases under the  
26 Firearm Concealed Carry Act, records of the Concealed

1 Carry Licensing Review Board under the Firearm Concealed  
2 Carry Act, and law enforcement agency objections under the  
3 Firearm Concealed Carry Act.

4 (v-5) Records of the Firearm Owner's Identification  
5 Card Review Board that are exempted from disclosure under  
6 Section 10 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act.

7 (w) Personally identifiable information which is  
8 exempted from disclosure under subsection (g) of Section  
9 19.1 of the Toll Highway Act.

10 (x) Information which is exempted from disclosure  
11 under Section 5-1014.3 of the Counties Code or Section  
12 8-11-21 of the Illinois Municipal Code.

13 (y) Confidential information under the Adult  
14 Protective Services Act and its predecessor enabling  
15 statute, the Elder Abuse and Neglect Act, including  
16 information about the identity and administrative finding  
17 against any caregiver of a verified and substantiated  
18 decision of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of  
19 an eligible adult maintained in the Registry established  
20 under Section 7.5 of the Adult Protective Services Act.

21 (z) Records and information provided to a fatality  
22 review team or the Illinois Fatality Review Team Advisory  
23 Council under Section 15 of the Adult Protective Services  
24 Act.

25 (aa) Information which is exempted from disclosure  
26 under Section 2.37 of the Wildlife Code.

1           (bb) Information which is or was prohibited from  
2 disclosure by the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

3           (cc) Recordings made under the Law Enforcement  
4 Officer-Worn Body Camera Act, except to the extent  
5 authorized under that Act.

6           (dd) Information that is prohibited from being  
7 disclosed under Section 45 of the Condominium and Common  
8 Interest Community Ombudsperson Act.

9           (ee) Information that is exempted from disclosure  
10 under Section 30.1 of the Pharmacy Practice Act.

11           (ff) Information that is exempted from disclosure  
12 under the Revised Uniform Unclaimed Property Act.

13           (gg) Information that is prohibited from being  
14 disclosed under Section 7-603.5 of the Illinois Vehicle  
15 Code.

16           (hh) Records that are exempt from disclosure under  
17 Section 1A-16.7 of the Election Code.

18           (ii) Information which is exempted from disclosure  
19 under Section 2505-800 of the Department of Revenue Law of  
20 the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois.

21           (jj) Information and reports that are required to be  
22 submitted to the Department of Labor by registering day  
23 and temporary labor service agencies but are exempt from  
24 disclosure under subsection (a-1) of Section 45 of the Day  
25 and Temporary Labor Services Act.

26           (kk) Information prohibited from disclosure under the

1 Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act.

2 (ll) Information the disclosure of which is restricted  
3 and exempted under Section 5-30.8 of the Illinois Public  
4 Aid Code.

5 (mm) Records that are exempt from disclosure under  
6 Section 4.2 of the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

7 (nn) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
8 Section 70 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act.

9 (oo) Communications, notes, records, and reports  
10 arising out of a peer support counseling session  
11 prohibited from disclosure under the First Responders  
12 Suicide Prevention Act.

13 (pp) Names and all identifying information relating to  
14 an employee of an emergency services provider or law  
15 enforcement agency under the First Responders Suicide  
16 Prevention Act.

17 (qq) Information and records held by the Department of  
18 Public Health and its authorized representatives collected  
19 under the Reproductive Health Act.

20 (rr) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
21 the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act.

22 (ss) Data reported by an employer to the Department of  
23 Human Rights pursuant to Section 2-108 of the Illinois  
24 Human Rights Act.

25 (tt) Recordings made under the Children's Advocacy  
26 Center Act, except to the extent authorized under that

1 Act.

2 (uu) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
3 Section 50 of the Sexual Assault Evidence Submission Act.

4 (vv) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
5 subsections (f) and (j) of Section 5-36 of the Illinois  
6 Public Aid Code.

7 (ww) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
8 Section 16.8 of the State Treasurer Act.

9 (xx) Information that is exempt from disclosure or  
10 information that shall not be made public under the  
11 Illinois Insurance Code.

12 (yy) Information prohibited from being disclosed under  
13 the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act.

14 (zz) Information prohibited from being disclosed under  
15 the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act.

16 (aaa) Information prohibited from being disclosed  
17 under Section 1-167 of the Illinois Pension Code.

18 (bbb) Information that is prohibited from disclosure  
19 by the Illinois Police Training Act and the Illinois State  
20 Police Act.

21 (ccc) Records exempt from disclosure under Section  
22 2605-304 of the Illinois State Police Law of the Civil  
23 Administrative Code of Illinois.

24 (ddd) Information prohibited from being disclosed  
25 under Section 35 of the Address Confidentiality for  
26 Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Human

1 Trafficking, or Stalking Act.

2 (eee) Information prohibited from being disclosed  
3 under subsection (b) of Section 75 of the Domestic  
4 Violence Fatality Review Act.

5 (fff) Images from cameras under the Expressway Camera  
6 Act. This subsection (fff) is inoperative on and after  
7 July 1, 2025.

8 (ggg) Information prohibited from disclosure under  
9 paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Section 14 of the Nurse  
10 Agency Licensing Act.

11 (hhh) Information submitted to the Illinois State  
12 Police in an affidavit or application for an assault  
13 weapon endorsement, assault weapon attachment endorsement,  
14 .50 caliber rifle endorsement, or .50 caliber cartridge  
15 endorsement under the Firearm Owners Identification Card  
16 Act.

17 (iii) Data exempt from disclosure under Section 50 of  
18 the School Safety Drill Act.

19 (jjj) Information exempt from disclosure under Section  
20 30 of the Insurance Data Security Law.

21 (kkk) Confidential business information prohibited  
22 from disclosure under Section 45 of the Paint Stewardship  
23 Act.

24 (lll) Data exempt from disclosure under Section  
25 2-3.196 of the School Code.

26 (mmm) Information prohibited from being disclosed

1 under subsection (e) of Section 1-129 of the Illinois  
2 Power Agency Act.

3 (nnn) Materials received by the Department of Commerce  
4 and Economic Opportunity that are confidential under the  
5 Music and Musicians Tax Credit and Jobs Act.

6 (ooo) Data or information provided pursuant to Section  
7 20 of the Statewide Recycling Needs and Assessment Act.

8 (ppp) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
9 Section 28-11 of the Lawful Health Care Activity Act.

10 (qqq) Information that is exempt from disclosure under  
11 Section 7-101 of the Illinois Human Rights Act.

12 (rrr) Information prohibited from being disclosed  
13 under Section 4-2 of the Uniform Money Transmission  
14 Modernization Act.

15 (sss) Information exempt from disclosure under Section  
16 40 of the Student-Athlete Endorsement Rights Act.

17 (ttt) Audio recordings made under Section 30 of the  
18 Illinois State Police Act, except to the extent authorized  
19 under that Section.

20 (uuu) Information and records held by the State Board  
21 of Education, a regional office of education, an  
22 intermediate service center, or any school district  
23 containing confidential information about a student,  
24 parent, or guardian under the Homeschool Act.

25 (vvv) Information and records held by the State Board  
26 of Education containing confidential information about a

1           student, parent, or guardian under Section 2-3.25o of the  
2           School Code.

3           (Source: P.A. 102-36, eff. 6-25-21; 102-237, eff. 1-1-22;  
4           102-292, eff. 1-1-22; 102-520, eff. 8-20-21; 102-559, eff.  
5           8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-946, eff. 7-1-22;  
6           102-1042, eff. 6-3-22; 102-1116, eff. 1-10-23; 103-8, eff.  
7           6-7-23; 103-34, eff. 6-9-23; 103-142, eff. 1-1-24; 103-372,  
8           eff. 1-1-24; 103-472, eff. 8-1-24; 103-508, eff. 8-4-23;  
9           103-580, eff. 12-8-23; 103-592, eff. 6-7-24; 103-605, eff.  
10          7-1-24; 103-636, eff. 7-1-24; 103-724, eff. 1-1-25; 103-786,  
11          eff. 8-7-24; 103-859, eff. 8-9-24; 103-991, eff. 8-9-24;  
12          103-1049, eff. 8-9-24; 103-1081, eff. 3-21-25.)

13           Section 905. The School Code is amended by changing  
14           Sections 2-3.25o, 26-1, 26-3a, 26-7, 26-5, and 26-16 as  
15           follows:

16           (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25o)

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

19           (a) Findings. The General Assembly finds and declares (i)  
20           that the Constitution of the State of Illinois provides that a  
21           "fundamental goal of the People of the State is the  
22           educational development of all persons to the limits of their  
23           capacities" and (ii) that the educational development of every  
24           school student serves the public purposes of the State. In

1 order to ensure that all Illinois students and teachers have  
2 the opportunity to enroll and work in State-approved  
3 educational institutions and programs, the State Board of  
4 Education shall provide for the voluntary registration and  
5 recognition of non-public elementary and secondary schools.

6 (b) Registration. All non-public elementary and secondary  
7 schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily register with  
8 the State Board of Education on an annual basis. However,  
9 beginning on August 1, 2026, all non-public elementary and  
10 secondary schools in the State of Illinois shall register with  
11 the State Board of Education on an annual basis. Registration  
12 shall be completed in conformance with procedures prescribed  
13 by the State Board of Education. Information required for  
14 registration shall include assurances of compliance (i) with  
15 federal and State laws regarding health examination and  
16 immunization, attendance, length of term, and  
17 nondiscrimination, including assurances that the school will  
18 not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race,  
19 ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to,  
20 protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, ~~and~~  
21 (ii) with applicable fire and health safety requirements,  
22 (iii) with the requirement that all individuals in the school  
23 assigned to a teaching or administrative position hold, at a  
24 minimum, a high school diploma or its recognized equivalent,  
25 (iv) with the requirement to maintain in its own records a list  
26 of every attending student's name, date of birth, grade level,

1 address of residence, and the name and address of residence of  
2 at least one parent or guardian of each attending student, and  
3 (v) to confirm or deny to a truancy officer whether a  
4 particular student is enrolled and attending during the course  
5 of a truancy investigation under Article 26 of this Code.

6 (c) Recognition. All non-public elementary and secondary  
7 schools in the State of Illinois may voluntarily seek the  
8 status of "Non-public School Recognition" from the State Board  
9 of Education. This status may be obtained by compliance with  
10 administrative guidelines and review procedures as prescribed  
11 by the State Board of Education. The guidelines and procedures  
12 must recognize that some of the aims and the financial bases of  
13 non-public schools are different from public schools and will  
14 not be identical to those for public schools, nor will they be  
15 more burdensome. The guidelines and procedures must also  
16 recognize the diversity of non-public schools and shall not  
17 impinge upon the noneducational relationships between those  
18 schools and their clientele.

19 (c-5) Prohibition against recognition. A non-public  
20 elementary or secondary school may not obtain "Non-public  
21 School Recognition" status unless the school requires all  
22 certified and non-certified applicants for employment with the  
23 school, after July 1, 2007, to authorize a fingerprint-based  
24 criminal history records check as a condition of employment to  
25 determine if such applicants have been convicted of any of the  
26 enumerated criminal or drug offenses set forth in Section

1 21B-80 of this Code or have been convicted, within 7 years of  
2 the application for employment, of any other felony under the  
3 laws of this State or of any offense committed or attempted in  
4 any other state or against the laws of the United States that,  
5 if committed or attempted in this State, would have been  
6 punishable as a felony under the laws of this State.

7 Authorization for the check shall be furnished by the  
8 applicant to the school, except that if the applicant is a  
9 substitute teacher seeking employment in more than one  
10 non-public school, a teacher seeking concurrent part-time  
11 employment positions with more than one non-public school (as  
12 a reading specialist, special education teacher, or  
13 otherwise), or an educational support personnel employee  
14 seeking employment positions with more than one non-public  
15 school, then only one of the non-public schools employing the  
16 individual shall request the authorization. Upon receipt of  
17 this authorization, the non-public school shall submit the  
18 applicant's name, sex, race, date of birth, social security  
19 number, fingerprint images, and other identifiers, as  
20 prescribed by the Illinois State Police, to the Illinois State  
21 Police.

22 The Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of  
23 Investigation shall furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based  
24 criminal history records check, records of convictions,  
25 forever and hereafter, until expunged, to the president or  
26 principal of the non-public school that requested the check.

1 The Illinois State Police shall charge that school a fee for  
2 conducting such check, which fee must be deposited into the  
3 State Police Services Fund and must not exceed the cost of the  
4 inquiry. Subject to appropriations for these purposes, the  
5 State Superintendent of Education shall reimburse non-public  
6 schools for fees paid to obtain criminal history records  
7 checks under this Section.

8 A non-public school may not obtain recognition status  
9 unless the school also performs a check of the Statewide Sex  
10 Offender Database, as authorized by the Sex Offender Community  
11 Notification Law, and the Statewide Murderer and Violent  
12 Offender Against Youth Database, as authorized by the Murderer  
13 and Violent Offender Against Youth Registration Act, for each  
14 applicant for employment, after July 1, 2007, to determine  
15 whether the applicant has been adjudicated of a sex offense or  
16 of a murder or other violent crime against youth. The checks of  
17 the Statewide Sex Offender Database and the Statewide Murderer  
18 and Violent Offender Against Youth Database must be conducted  
19 by the non-public school once for every 5 years that an  
20 applicant remains employed by the non-public school.

21 Any information concerning the record of convictions  
22 obtained by a non-public school's president or principal under  
23 this Section is confidential and may be disseminated only to  
24 the governing body of the non-public school or any other  
25 person necessary to the decision of hiring the applicant for  
26 employment. A copy of the record of convictions obtained from

1 the Illinois State Police shall be provided to the applicant  
2 for employment. Upon a check of the Statewide Sex Offender  
3 Database, the non-public school shall notify the applicant as  
4 to whether or not the applicant has been identified in the Sex  
5 Offender Database as a sex offender. Any information  
6 concerning the records of conviction obtained by the  
7 non-public school's president or principal under this Section  
8 for a substitute teacher seeking employment in more than one  
9 non-public school, a teacher seeking concurrent part-time  
10 employment positions with more than one non-public school (as  
11 a reading specialist, special education teacher, or  
12 otherwise), or an educational support personnel employee  
13 seeking employment positions with more than one non-public  
14 school may be shared with another non-public school's  
15 principal or president to which the applicant seeks  
16 employment. Any unauthorized release of confidential  
17 information may be a violation of Section 7 of the Criminal  
18 Identification Act.

19 No non-public school may obtain recognition status that  
20 knowingly employs a person, hired after July 1, 2007, for whom  
21 an Illinois State Police and Federal Bureau of Investigation  
22 fingerprint-based criminal history records check and a  
23 Statewide Sex Offender Database check has not been initiated  
24 or who has been convicted of any offense enumerated in Section  
25 21B-80 of this Code or any offense committed or attempted in  
26 any other state or against the laws of the United States that,

1 if committed or attempted in this State, would have been  
2 punishable as one or more of those offenses. No non-public  
3 school may obtain recognition status under this Section that  
4 knowingly employs a person who has been found to be the  
5 perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor under 18  
6 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II of the  
7 Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

8 In order to obtain recognition status under this Section,  
9 a non-public school must require compliance with the  
10 provisions of this subsection (c-5) from all employees of  
11 persons or firms holding contracts with the school, including,  
12 but not limited to, food service workers, school bus drivers,  
13 and other transportation employees, who have direct, daily  
14 contact with pupils. Any information concerning the records of  
15 conviction or identification as a sex offender of any such  
16 employee obtained by the non-public school principal or  
17 president must be promptly reported to the school's governing  
18 body.

19 Prior to the commencement of any student teaching  
20 experience or required internship (which is referred to as  
21 student teaching in this Section) in any non-public elementary  
22 or secondary school that has obtained or seeks to obtain  
23 recognition status under this Section, a student teacher is  
24 required to authorize a fingerprint-based criminal history  
25 records check. Authorization for and payment of the costs of  
26 the check must be furnished by the student teacher to the chief

1 administrative officer of the non-public school where the  
2 student teaching is to be completed. Upon receipt of this  
3 authorization and payment, the chief administrative officer of  
4 the non-public school shall submit the student teacher's name,  
5 sex, race, date of birth, social security number, fingerprint  
6 images, and other identifiers, as prescribed by the Illinois  
7 State Police, to the Illinois State Police. The Illinois State  
8 Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall furnish,  
9 pursuant to a fingerprint-based criminal history records  
10 check, records of convictions, forever and hereinafter, until  
11 expunged, to the chief administrative officer of the  
12 non-public school that requested the check. The Illinois State  
13 Police shall charge the school a fee for conducting the check,  
14 which fee must be passed on to the student teacher, must not  
15 exceed the cost of the inquiry, and must be deposited into the  
16 State Police Services Fund. The school shall further perform a  
17 check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database, as authorized by  
18 the Sex Offender Community Notification Law, and of the  
19 Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth  
20 Database, as authorized by the Murderer and Violent Offender  
21 Against Youth Registration Act, for each student teacher. No  
22 school that has obtained or seeks to obtain recognition status  
23 under this Section may knowingly allow a person to student  
24 teach for whom a criminal history records check, a Statewide  
25 Sex Offender Database check, and a Statewide Murderer and  
26 Violent Offender Against Youth Database check have not been

1 completed and reviewed by the chief administrative officer of  
2 the non-public school.

3 A copy of the record of convictions obtained from the  
4 Illinois State Police must be provided to the student teacher.  
5 Any information concerning the record of convictions obtained  
6 by the chief administrative officer of the non-public school  
7 is confidential and may be transmitted only to the chief  
8 administrative officer of the non-public school or his or her  
9 designee, the State Superintendent of Education, the State  
10 Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, or, for  
11 clarification purposes, the Illinois State Police or the  
12 Statewide Sex Offender Database or Statewide Murderer and  
13 Violent Offender Against Youth Database. Any unauthorized  
14 release of confidential information may be a violation of  
15 Section 7 of the Criminal Identification Act.

16 No school that has obtained or seeks to obtain recognition  
17 status under this Section may knowingly allow a person to  
18 student teach who has been convicted of any offense that would  
19 subject him or her to license suspension or revocation  
20 pursuant to Section 21B-80 of this Code or who has been found  
21 to be the perpetrator of sexual or physical abuse of a minor  
22 under 18 years of age pursuant to proceedings under Article II  
23 of the Juvenile Court Act of 1987.

24 Any school that has obtained or seeks to obtain  
25 recognition status under this Section may not prohibit  
26 hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or

1 hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective  
2 hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists.

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

6 (e) Definition. For purposes of this Section, a non-public  
7 school means (i) any non-profit, non-home-based, and  
8 non-public elementary or secondary school that is in  
9 compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and  
10 attendance at which satisfies the requirements of Section 26-1  
11 of this Code or (ii) any non-public elementary or secondary  
12 school that does not meet the definition of a homeschool under  
13 the Homeschool Act.

14 (Source: P.A. 102-360, eff. 1-1-22; 102-538, eff. 8-20-21;  
15 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 103-111, eff. 6-29-23; 103-605, eff.  
16 7-1-24.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/26-1) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-1)

18 Sec. 26-1. Compulsory school age; exemptions. Whoever has  
19 custody or control of any child (i) between the ages of 7 and  
20 17 years (unless the child has already graduated from high  
21 school) for school years before the 2014-2015 school year or  
22 (ii) between the ages of 6 (on or before September 1) and 17  
23 years (unless the child has already graduated from high  
24 school) beginning with the 2014-2015 school year shall cause  
25 such child to attend some public school in the district

1 wherein the child resides the entire time it is in session  
2 during the regular school term, except as provided in Section  
3 10-19.1, and during a required summer school program  
4 established under Section 10-22.33B; provided, that the  
5 following children shall not be required to attend the public  
6 schools:

7 1. Any child attending a private school, ~~or~~ a  
8 parochial school, or a homeschool where children are  
9 taught the branches of education taught to children of  
10 corresponding age and grade in the public schools, ~~and~~  
11 ~~where the instruction of the child in the branches of~~  
12 ~~education is in the English language;~~

13 2. Any child who is physically or mentally unable to  
14 attend school, such disability being certified to the  
15 county or district truant officer by a competent physician  
16 licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in  
17 all its branches, a chiropractic physician licensed under  
18 the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a licensed advanced  
19 practice registered nurse, a licensed physician assistant,  
20 or a Christian Science practitioner residing in this State  
21 and listed in the Christian Science Journal; or who is  
22 excused for temporary absence for cause by the principal  
23 or teacher of the school which the child attends, with  
24 absence for cause by illness being required to include the  
25 mental or behavioral health of the child for up to 5 days  
26 for which the child need not provide a medical note, in

1           which case the child shall be given the opportunity to  
2           make up any school work missed during the mental or  
3           behavioral health absence and, after the second mental  
4           health day used, may be referred to the appropriate school  
5           support personnel; the exemptions in this paragraph (2) do  
6           not apply to any female who is pregnant or the mother of  
7           one or more children, except where a female is unable to  
8           attend school due to a complication arising from her  
9           pregnancy and the existence of such complication is  
10          certified to the county or district truant officer by a  
11          competent physician;

12           3. Any child necessarily and lawfully employed  
13          according to the provisions of the Child Labor Law of 2024  
14          may be excused from attendance at school by the county  
15          superintendent of schools or the superintendent of the  
16          public school which the child should be attending, on  
17          certification of the facts by and the recommendation of  
18          the school board of the public school district in which  
19          the child resides. In districts having part-time  
20          continuation schools, children so excused shall attend  
21          such schools at least 8 hours each week;

22           4. Any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in  
23          attendance at confirmation classes;

24           5. Any child absent from a public school on a  
25          particular day or days or at a particular time of day for  
26          the reason that he is unable to attend classes or to

1 participate in any examination, study, or work  
2 requirements on a particular day or days or at a  
3 particular time of day because of religious reasons,  
4 including the observance of a religious holiday or  
5 participation in religious instruction, or because the  
6 tenets of his religion forbid secular activity on a  
7 particular day or days or at a particular time of day. A  
8 school board may require the parent or guardian of a child  
9 who is to be excused from attending school because of  
10 religious reasons to give notice, not exceeding 5 days, of  
11 the child's absence to the school principal or other  
12 school personnel. Any child excused from attending school  
13 under this paragraph 5 shall not be required to submit a  
14 written excuse for such absence after returning to school.  
15 A district superintendent shall develop and distribute to  
16 schools appropriate procedures regarding a student's  
17 absence for religious reasons, how schools are notified of  
18 a student's impending absence for religious reasons, and  
19 the requirements of Section 26-2b of this Code;

20 6. Any child 16 years of age or older who (i) submits  
21 to a school district evidence of necessary and lawful  
22 employment pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Section and  
23 (ii) is enrolled in a graduation incentives program  
24 pursuant to Section 26-16 of this Code or an alternative  
25 learning opportunities program established pursuant to  
26 Article 13B of this Code;

1           7. A child in any of grades 6 through 12 absent from a  
2 public school on a particular day or days or at a  
3 particular time of day for the purpose of sounding "Taps"  
4 at a military honors funeral held in this State for a  
5 deceased veteran. In order to be excused under this  
6 paragraph 7, the student shall notify the school's  
7 administration at least 2 days prior to the date of the  
8 absence and shall provide the school's administration with  
9 the date, time, and location of the military honors  
10 funeral. The school's administration may waive this 2-day  
11 notification requirement if the student did not receive at  
12 least 2 days advance notice, but the student shall notify  
13 the school's administration as soon as possible of the  
14 absence. A student whose absence is excused under this  
15 paragraph 7 shall be counted as if the student attended  
16 school for purposes of calculating the average daily  
17 attendance of students in the school district. A student  
18 whose absence is excused under this paragraph 7 must be  
19 allowed a reasonable time to make up school work missed  
20 during the absence. If the student satisfactorily  
21 completes the school work, the day of absence shall be  
22 counted as a day of compulsory attendance and he or she may  
23 not be penalized for that absence; ~~and~~

24           8. Any child absent from a public school on a  
25 particular day or days or at a particular time of day for  
26 the reason that his or her parent or legal guardian is an

1 active duty member of the uniformed services and has been  
2 called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately  
3 returned from deployment to a combat zone or  
4 combat-support postings. Such a student shall be granted 5  
5 days of excused absences in any school year and, at the  
6 discretion of the school board, additional excused  
7 absences to visit the student's parent or legal guardian  
8 relative to such leave or deployment of the parent or  
9 legal guardian. In the case of excused absences pursuant  
10 to this paragraph 8, the student and parent or legal  
11 guardian shall be responsible for obtaining assignments  
12 from the student's teacher prior to any period of excused  
13 absence and for ensuring that such assignments are  
14 completed by the student prior to his or her return to  
15 school from such period of excused absence; and -

16 9. Any child attending a homeschool program, provided  
17 that the homeschool administrator meets the requirements  
18 of the Homeschool Act, as those terms are defined in the  
19 Homeschool Act.

20 Any child from a public middle school or high school,  
21 subject to guidelines established by the State Board of  
22 Education, shall be permitted by a school board one school  
23 day-long excused absence per school year for the child who is  
24 absent from school to engage in a civic event. The school board  
25 may require that the student provide reasonable advance notice  
26 of the intended absence to the appropriate school

1 administrator and require that the student provide  
2 documentation of participation in a civic event to the  
3 appropriate school administrator.

4 (Source: P.A. 102-266, eff. 1-1-22; 102-321, eff. 1-1-22;  
5 102-406, eff. 8-19-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22; 102-981, eff.  
6 1-1-23; 103-721, eff. 1-1-25.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/26-3a) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-3a)

8 Sec. 26-3a. Report of pupils no longer enrolled in school.

9 The clerk or secretary of the school board of all school  
10 districts shall furnish quarterly on the first school day of  
11 October, January, April and July to the regional  
12 superintendent ~~and to the Secretary of State~~ a list of pupils,  
13 excluding transferees, who have been expelled or have  
14 withdrawn or who have left school and have been removed from  
15 the regular attendance rolls during the period of time school  
16 was in regular session from the time of the previous quarterly  
17 report. Such list shall include the names and addresses of  
18 pupils formerly in attendance, the names and addresses of  
19 persons having custody or control of such pupils, the reason,  
20 if known, such pupils are no longer in attendance and the date  
21 of removal from the attendance rolls. The list shall also  
22 include the names of: pupils whose withdrawal is due to  
23 extraordinary circumstances, including but not limited to  
24 economic or medical necessity or family hardship, as  
25 determined by the criteria established by the school district;

1 pupils who have re-enrolled in school since their names were  
2 removed from the attendance rolls; any pupil certified to be a  
3 chronic or habitual truant, as defined in Section 26-2a; and  
4 pupils previously certified as chronic or habitual truants who  
5 have resumed regular school attendance. The regional  
6 superintendent shall inform the county or district truant  
7 officer who shall investigate to see that such pupils are in  
8 compliance with the requirements of this Article.

9 Each local school district shall establish, in writing, a  
10 set of criteria for use by the local superintendent of schools  
11 in determining whether a pupil's failure to attend school is  
12 the result of extraordinary circumstances, including but not  
13 limited to economic or medical necessity or family hardship.

14 ~~If a pupil re enrolls in school after his or her name was~~  
15 ~~removed from the attendance rolls or resumes regular~~  
16 ~~attendance after being certified a chronic or habitual truant,~~  
17 ~~the pupil must obtain and forward to the Secretary of State, on~~  
18 ~~a form designated by the Secretary of State, verification of~~  
19 ~~his or her re enrollment. The verification may be in the form~~  
20 ~~of a signature or seal or in any other form determined by the~~  
21 ~~school board.~~

22 The State Board of Education shall, if possible, make  
23 available to any person, upon request, a comparison of drop  
24 out rates before and after the effective date of this  
25 amendatory Act of the 94th General Assembly.

26 (Source: P.A. 94-916, eff. 7-1-07; 95-496, eff. 8-28-07.)

1 (105 ILCS 5/26-5) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-5)

2 Sec. 26-5. Duties of truant officers.

3 (a) The truant officer of the school district, whenever  
4 notified by the Superintendent, teacher, or other person of  
5 violations of this Article, or the county truant officer, when  
6 notified by the County Superintendent, shall investigate all  
7 cases of truancy or non-attendance at school in their  
8 respective jurisdictions, and if the children complained of  
9 are not exempt under the provisions of this Article, the  
10 truant officer shall proceed as is provided in this Article.  
11 The county truant officer, within the county and the district  
12 truant officers, within their respective districts, shall in  
13 the exercise of their duties be conservators of the peace and  
14 shall keep the same, suppress riots, routs, affray, fighting,  
15 breaches of the peace, and prevent crime; and may arrest  
16 offenders on view and cause them to be brought before proper  
17 officials for trial or examination.

18 (b) The truant officer or county truant officer notified  
19 of a homeschool in violation of Section 30 of the Homeschool  
20 Act, shall meet with the child or children complained of and  
21 make an initial determination of whether there is cause to  
22 start a truancy investigation.

23 (c) The truant officer or county truant officer who  
24 determines there is no cause to start a truancy investigation  
25 shall report the reasons for the determination to their

1 respective office, and shall assist the homeschool in  
2 submitting the homeschool notification form in whatever way  
3 practicable.

4 (Source: Laws 1961, p. 31.)

5 (105 ILCS 5/26-7) (from Ch. 122, par. 26-7)

6 Sec. 26-7. Notice to custodian-Notice of non-compliance.  
7 If any person fails to send any child under his custody or  
8 control to some lawful school, the truant officer or, in a  
9 school district that does not have a truant officer, the  
10 regional superintendent of schools or his or her designee  
11 shall, as soon as practicable after he is notified thereof,  
12 give notice in person or by mail to such person that such child  
13 shall be present at the proper public school on the day  
14 following the receipt of such notice. The notice shall state  
15 the date that attendance at school must begin and that such  
16 attendance must be continuous and consecutive in the district  
17 during the remainder of the school year. The truant officer  
18 or, in a school district that does not have a truant officer,  
19 the regional superintendent of schools or his or her designee  
20 shall at the same time that such notice is given notify the  
21 teacher or superintendent of the proper public school thereof  
22 and the teacher or superintendent shall notify the truant  
23 officer or regional superintendent of schools of any  
24 non-compliance therewith.

25 Beginning August 1, 2026, "lawful school", as used in this

1 Section, means a registered school under Section 2-3.25o of  
2 this Code and includes a homeschool if the State Board of  
3 Education has been notified under the Homeschool Act.

4 (Source: P.A. 93-858, eff. 1-1-05.)

5 (105 ILCS 5/26-16)

6 Sec. 26-16. Graduation incentives program.

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that it is critical to  
8 provide options for children to succeed in school. The purpose  
9 of this Section is to provide incentives for and encourage all  
10 Illinois students who have experienced or are experiencing  
11 difficulty in the traditional education system to enroll in  
12 alternative programs.

13 (b) Any student who is below the age of 20 years is  
14 eligible to enroll in a graduation incentives program if he or  
15 she:

16 (1) is considered a dropout pursuant to Section 26-2a  
17 of this Code;

18 (2) has been suspended or expelled pursuant to Section  
19 10-22.6 or 34-19 of this Code;

20 (3) is pregnant or is a parent;

21 (4) has been assessed as chemically dependent; ~~or~~

22 (5) is enrolled in a bilingual education or LEP  
23 program; or ~~or~~

24 (6) was formerly enrolled in a homeschool program.

25 (c) The following programs qualify as graduation

1 incentives programs for students meeting the criteria  
2 established in this Section:

3 (1) Any public elementary or secondary education  
4 graduation incentives program established by a school  
5 district or by a regional office of education.

6 (2) Any alternative learning opportunities program  
7 established pursuant to Article 13B of this Code.

8 (3) Vocational or job training courses approved by the  
9 State Superintendent of Education that are available  
10 through the Illinois public community college system.  
11 Students may apply for reimbursement of 50% of tuition  
12 costs for one course per semester or a maximum of 3 courses  
13 per school year. Subject to available funds, students may  
14 apply for reimbursement of up to 100% of tuition costs  
15 upon a showing of employment within 6 months after  
16 completion of a vocational or job training program. The  
17 qualifications for reimbursement shall be established by  
18 the State Superintendent of Education by rule.

19 (4) Job and career programs approved by the State  
20 Superintendent of Education that are available through  
21 Illinois-accredited private business and vocational  
22 schools. Subject to available funds, pupils may apply for  
23 reimbursement of up to 100% of tuition costs upon a  
24 showing of employment within 6 months after completion of  
25 a job or career program. The State Superintendent of  
26 Education shall establish, by rule, the qualifications for

1 reimbursement, criteria for determining reimbursement  
2 amounts, and limits on reimbursement.

3 (5) Adult education courses that offer preparation for  
4 high school equivalency testing.

5 (d) Graduation incentives programs established by school  
6 districts are entitled to claim general State aid and  
7 evidence-based funding, subject to Sections 13B-50, 13B-50.5,  
8 and 13B-50.10 of this Code. Graduation incentives programs  
9 operated by regional offices of education are entitled to  
10 receive general State aid and evidence-based funding at the  
11 foundation level of support per pupil enrolled. A school  
12 district must ensure that its graduation incentives program  
13 receives supplemental general State aid, transportation  
14 reimbursements, and special education resources, if  
15 appropriate, for students enrolled in the program.

16 (Source: P.A. 100-465, eff. 8-31-17.)

17 Section 910. The Illinois School Student Records Act is  
18 amended by changing Sections 2, 3, and 6 as follows:

19 (105 ILCS 10/2) (from Ch. 122, par. 50-2)

20 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 102-466)

21 Sec. 2. As used in this Act:

22 (a) "Student" means any person enrolled or previously  
23 enrolled in a school.

24 (b) "School" means any public preschool, day care center,

1 kindergarten, nursery, elementary or secondary educational  
2 institution, vocational school, special educational facility  
3 or any other elementary or secondary educational agency or  
4 institution and any person, agency or institution which  
5 maintains school student records from more than one school,  
6 but does not include a private or non-public school.

7 (c) "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

8 (d) "School Student Record" means any writing or other  
9 recorded information concerning a student and by which a  
10 student may be individually identified, maintained by a school  
11 or at its direction or by an employee of a school, regardless  
12 of how or where the information is stored. The following shall  
13 not be deemed school student records under this Act: writings  
14 or other recorded information maintained by an employee of a  
15 school or other person at the direction of a school for his or  
16 her exclusive use; provided that all such writings and other  
17 recorded information are destroyed not later than the  
18 student's graduation or permanent withdrawal from the school;  
19 and provided further that no such records or recorded  
20 information may be released or disclosed to any person except  
21 a person designated by the school as a substitute unless they  
22 are first incorporated in a school student record and made  
23 subject to all of the provisions of this Act. School student  
24 records shall not include information maintained by law  
25 enforcement professionals working in the school.

26 (e) "Student Permanent Record" means the minimum personal

1 information necessary to a school in the education of the  
2 student and contained in a school student record. Such  
3 information may include the student's name, birth date,  
4 address, grades and grade level, parents' names and addresses,  
5 attendance records, and such other entries as the State Board  
6 may require or authorize. "Student Permanent Record" does not  
7 include a homeschool notification form or any record that a  
8 homeschool administrator submits to a school district for  
9 proof of a homeschooled student's immunization and health  
10 examination as required by Section 27-8.1 of the School Code.

11 (f) "Student Temporary Record" means all information  
12 contained in a school student record but not contained in the  
13 student permanent record. Such information may include family  
14 background information, intelligence test scores, aptitude  
15 test scores, psychological and personality test results,  
16 teacher evaluations, and other information of clear relevance  
17 to the education of the student, all subject to regulations of  
18 the State Board. The information shall include information  
19 provided under Section 8.6 of the Abused and Neglected Child  
20 Reporting Act and information contained in service logs  
21 maintained by a local education agency under subsection (d) of  
22 Section 14-8.02f of the School Code. In addition, the student  
23 temporary record shall include information regarding serious  
24 disciplinary infractions that resulted in expulsion,  
25 suspension, or the imposition of punishment or sanction. For  
26 purposes of this provision, serious disciplinary infractions

1 means: infractions involving drugs, weapons, or bodily harm to  
2 another. "Student Temporary Record" does not include a  
3 homeschool notification form or any record that a homeschool  
4 administrator submits to a school district for proof of a  
5 homeschooled student's immunization and health examination as  
6 required by Section 27-8.1 of the School Code.

7 (g) "Parent" means a person who is the natural parent of  
8 the student or other person who has the primary responsibility  
9 for the care and upbringing of the student. All rights and  
10 privileges accorded to a parent under this Act shall become  
11 exclusively those of the student upon his 18th birthday,  
12 graduation from secondary school, marriage or entry into  
13 military service, whichever occurs first. Such rights and  
14 privileges may also be exercised by the student at any time  
15 with respect to the student's permanent school record.

16 (h) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
17 Family Services.

18 (i) "Homeschool administrator" and "homeschool  
19 notification form" have the meanings given to those terms in  
20 the Homeschool Act.

21 (Source: P.A. 101-515, eff. 8-23-19; 102-199, eff. 7-1-22;  
22 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

23 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 102-466)

24 Sec. 2. As used in this Act:

25 (a) "Student" means any person enrolled or previously

1 enrolled in a school.

2 (b) "School" means any public preschool, day care center,  
3 kindergarten, nursery, elementary or secondary educational  
4 institution, vocational school, special educational facility  
5 or any other elementary or secondary educational agency or  
6 institution and any person, agency or institution which  
7 maintains school student records from more than one school,  
8 but does not include a private or non-public school.

9 (c) "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

10 (d) "School Student Record" means any writing or other  
11 recorded information concerning a student and by which a  
12 student may be individually identified, maintained by a school  
13 or at its direction or by an employee of a school, regardless  
14 of how or where the information is stored. The following shall  
15 not be deemed school student records under this Act: writings  
16 or other recorded information maintained by an employee of a  
17 school or other person at the direction of a school for his or  
18 her exclusive use; provided that all such writings and other  
19 recorded information are destroyed not later than the  
20 student's graduation or permanent withdrawal from the school;  
21 and provided further that no such records or recorded  
22 information may be released or disclosed to any person except  
23 a person designated by the school as a substitute unless they  
24 are first incorporated in a school student record and made  
25 subject to all of the provisions of this Act. School student  
26 records shall not include information maintained by law

1 enforcement professionals working in the school.

2 (e) "Student Permanent Record" means the minimum personal  
3 information necessary to a school in the education of the  
4 student and contained in a school student record. Such  
5 information may include the student's name, birth date,  
6 address, grades and grade level, parents' names and addresses,  
7 attendance records, and such other entries as the State Board  
8 may require or authorize. "Student Permanent Record" does not  
9 include a homeschool notification form or any record that a  
10 homeschool administrator submits to a school district for  
11 proof of a homeschooled student's immunization and health  
12 examination as required by Section 27-8.1 of the School Code.

13 (f) "Student Temporary Record" means all information  
14 contained in a school student record but not contained in the  
15 student permanent record. Such information may include family  
16 background information, intelligence test scores, aptitude  
17 test scores, psychological and personality test results,  
18 teacher evaluations, and other information of clear relevance  
19 to the education of the student, all subject to regulations of  
20 the State Board. The information shall include all of the  
21 following:

22 (1) Information provided under Section 8.6 of the  
23 Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act and information  
24 contained in service logs maintained by a local education  
25 agency under subsection (d) of Section 14-8.02f of the  
26 School Code.

1           (2) Information regarding serious disciplinary  
2           infractions that resulted in expulsion, suspension, or the  
3           imposition of punishment or sanction. For purposes of this  
4           provision, serious disciplinary infractions means:  
5           infractions involving drugs, weapons, or bodily harm to  
6           another.

7           (3) Information concerning a student's status and  
8           related experiences as a parent, expectant parent, or  
9           victim of domestic or sexual violence, as defined in  
10          Article 26A of the School Code, including a statement of  
11          the student or any other documentation, record, or  
12          corroborating evidence and the fact that the student has  
13          requested or obtained assistance, support, or services  
14          related to that status. Enforcement of this paragraph (3)  
15          shall follow the procedures provided in Section 26A-40 of  
16          the School Code.

17          "Student Temporary Record" does not include a homeschool  
18          notification form or any record that a homeschool  
19          administrator submits to a school district for proof of a  
20          homeschooled student's immunization and health examination as  
21          required by Section 27-8.1 of the School Code.

22          (g) "Parent" means a person who is the natural parent of  
23          the student or other person who has the primary responsibility  
24          for the care and upbringing of the student. All rights and  
25          privileges accorded to a parent under this Act shall become  
26          exclusively those of the student upon his 18th birthday,

1 graduation from secondary school, marriage or entry into  
2 military service, whichever occurs first. Such rights and  
3 privileges may also be exercised by the student at any time  
4 with respect to the student's permanent school record.

5 (h) "Department" means the Department of Children and  
6 Family Services.

7 (i) "Homeschool administrator" and "homeschool  
8 notification form" have the meanings given to those terms in  
9 the Homeschool Act.

10 (Source: P.A. 101-515, eff. 8-23-19; 102-199, eff. 7-1-22;  
11 102-466, eff. 7-1-25; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21; 102-813, eff.  
12 5-13-22.)

13 (105 ILCS 10/3) (from Ch. 122, par. 50-3)

14 Sec. 3. (a) The State Board shall issue regulations to  
15 govern the contents of school student records, to implement  
16 and assure compliance with the provisions of this Act and to  
17 prescribe appropriate procedures and forms for all  
18 administrative proceedings, notices and consents required or  
19 permitted under this Act. All such regulations and any rules  
20 and regulations adopted by any school relating to the  
21 maintenance of, access to, dissemination of or challenge to  
22 school student records shall be available to the general  
23 public. Any information exempt from this Act under the  
24 Homeschool Act is prohibited from being included in school  
25 student records.

1           (b) The State Board, each local school board or other  
2 governing body and each school shall take reasonable measures  
3 to assure that all persons accorded rights or obligations  
4 under this Act are informed of such rights and obligations.

5           (c) The principal of each school or the person with like  
6 responsibilities or his or her designate shall take all action  
7 necessary to assure that school personnel are informed of the  
8 provisions of this Act.

9           (Source: P.A. 79-1108.)

10           (105 ILCS 10/6) (from Ch. 122, par. 50-6)

11           Sec. 6. (a) No school student records or information  
12 contained therein may be released, transferred, disclosed or  
13 otherwise disseminated, except as follows:

14                 (1) to a parent or student or person specifically  
15 designated as a representative by a parent, as provided in  
16 paragraph (a) of Section 5;

17                 (2) to an employee or official of the school or school  
18 district or State Board with current demonstrable  
19 educational or administrative interest in the student, in  
20 furtherance of such interest;

21                 (3) to the official records custodian of another  
22 school within Illinois or an official with similar  
23 responsibilities of a school outside Illinois, in which  
24 the student has enrolled, or intends to enroll, upon the  
25 request of such official or student;

1           (4) to any person for the purpose of research,  
2           statistical reporting, or planning, provided that such  
3           research, statistical reporting, or planning is  
4           permissible under and undertaken in accordance with the  
5           federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (20  
6           U.S.C. 1232g);

7           (5) pursuant to a court order, provided that the  
8           parent shall be given prompt written notice upon receipt  
9           of such order of the terms of the order, the nature and  
10          substance of the information proposed to be released in  
11          compliance with such order and an opportunity to inspect  
12          and copy the school student records and to challenge their  
13          contents pursuant to Section 7;

14          (6) to any person as specifically required by State or  
15          federal law;

16          (6.5) to juvenile authorities when necessary for the  
17          discharge of their official duties who request information  
18          prior to adjudication of the student and who certify in  
19          writing that the information will not be disclosed to any  
20          other party except as provided under law or order of  
21          court. For purposes of this Section "juvenile authorities"  
22          means: (i) a judge of the circuit court and members of the  
23          staff of the court designated by the judge; (ii) parties  
24          to the proceedings under the Juvenile Court Act of 1987  
25          and their attorneys; (iii) probation officers and court  
26          appointed advocates for the juvenile authorized by the

1 judge hearing the case; (iv) any individual, public or  
2 private agency having custody of the child pursuant to  
3 court order; (v) any individual, public or private agency  
4 providing education, medical or mental health service to  
5 the child when the requested information is needed to  
6 determine the appropriate service or treatment for the  
7 minor; (vi) any potential placement provider when such  
8 release is authorized by the court for the limited purpose  
9 of determining the appropriateness of the potential  
10 placement; (vii) law enforcement officers and prosecutors;  
11 (viii) adult and juvenile prisoner review boards; (ix)  
12 authorized military personnel; (x) individuals authorized  
13 by court;

14 (7) subject to regulations of the State Board, in  
15 connection with an emergency, to appropriate persons if  
16 the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect  
17 the health or safety of the student or other persons;

18 (8) to any person, with the prior specific dated  
19 written consent of the parent designating the person to  
20 whom the records may be released, provided that at the  
21 time any such consent is requested or obtained, the parent  
22 shall be advised in writing that he has the right to  
23 inspect and copy such records in accordance with Section  
24 5, to challenge their contents in accordance with Section  
25 7 and to limit any such consent to designated records or  
26 designated portions of the information contained therein;

1           (9) to a governmental agency, or social service agency  
2           contracted by a governmental agency, in furtherance of an  
3           investigation of a student's school attendance pursuant to  
4           the compulsory student attendance laws of this State,  
5           provided that the records are released to the employee or  
6           agent designated by the agency;

7           (10) to those SHOCAP committee members who fall within  
8           the meaning of "state and local officials and  
9           authorities", as those terms are used within the meaning  
10          of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,  
11          for the purposes of identifying serious habitual juvenile  
12          offenders and matching those offenders with community  
13          resources pursuant to Section 5-145 of the Juvenile Court  
14          Act of 1987, but only to the extent that the release,  
15          transfer, disclosure, or dissemination is consistent with  
16          the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act;

17          (11) to the Department of Healthcare and Family  
18          Services in furtherance of the requirements of Section  
19          2-3.131, 3-14.29, 10-28, or 34-18.26 of the School Code or  
20          Section 10 of the School Breakfast and Lunch Program Act;

21          (12) to the State Board or another State government  
22          agency or between or among State government agencies in  
23          order to evaluate or audit federal and State programs or  
24          perform research and planning, but only to the extent that  
25          the release, transfer, disclosure, or dissemination is  
26          consistent with the federal Family Educational Rights and

1 Privacy Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g);

2 (12.5) if the student is in the legal custody of the  
3 Department of Children and Family Services, to the  
4 Department's Office of Education and Transition Services;

5 ~~or~~

6 (13) under an intergovernmental agreement if an  
7 elementary school district and a high school district have  
8 attendance boundaries that overlap and are parties to an  
9 intergovernmental agreement that allows the sharing of  
10 student records and information between the districts.  
11 However, the sharing of student information is allowed  
12 under an intergovernmental agreement only if the  
13 intergovernmental agreement meets all of the following  
14 requirements:

15 (A) The sharing of student information must be  
16 voluntary and at the discretion of each school  
17 district that is a party to the agreement.

18 (B) The sharing of student information applies  
19 only to students who have been enrolled in both  
20 districts or would be enrolled in both districts based  
21 on district attendance boundaries, and the student's  
22 parent or guardian has expressed in writing that the  
23 student intends to enroll or has enrolled in the high  
24 school district.

25 (C) The sharing of student information does not  
26 exceed the scope of information that is shared among

1 schools in a unit school district. However, the terms  
2 of an intergovernmental agreement may place further  
3 limitations on the information that is allowed to be  
4 shared; ~~or-~~

5 (14) to the State Board of Education or a school or  
6 school district's regional office of education or  
7 intermediate service center or, in the case of a school  
8 district organized under Article 34 of the School Code,  
9 the general superintendent of schools only for the  
10 purposes of transmitting a homeschool notification form to  
11 one of these entities in accordance with the Homeschool  
12 Act.

13 (b) No information may be released pursuant to  
14 subparagraph (3) or (6) of paragraph (a) of this Section 6  
15 unless the parent receives prior written notice of the nature  
16 and substance of the information proposed to be released, and  
17 an opportunity to inspect and copy such records in accordance  
18 with Section 5 and to challenge their contents in accordance  
19 with Section 7. Provided, however, that such notice shall be  
20 sufficient if published in a local newspaper of general  
21 circulation or other publication directed generally to the  
22 parents involved where the proposed release of information is  
23 pursuant to subparagraph (6) of paragraph (a) of this Section  
24 6 and relates to more than 25 students.

25 A homeschool notification form being transmitted in  
26 accordance with the provisions of the Homeschool Act to the

1 State Board of Education or the school or school district's  
2 regional office of education or intermediate service center  
3 or, in the case of a school district organized under Article 34  
4 of the School Code, the general superintendent of schools is  
5 not subject to the requirements of paragraph (a) of this  
6 Section.

7 (c) A record of any release of information pursuant to  
8 this Section must be made and kept as a part of the school  
9 student record and subject to the access granted by Section 5.  
10 Such record of release shall be maintained for the life of the  
11 school student records and shall be available only to the  
12 parent and the official records custodian. Each record of  
13 release shall also include:

14 (1) the nature and substance of the information  
15 released;

16 (2) the name and signature of the official records  
17 custodian releasing such information;

18 (3) the name of the person requesting such  
19 information, the capacity in which such a request has been  
20 made, and the purpose of such request;

21 (4) the date of the release; and

22 (5) a copy of any consent to such release.

23 (d) Except for the student and his or her parents or, if  
24 applicable, the Department's Office of Education and  
25 Transition Services, no person to whom information is released  
26 pursuant to this Section and no person specifically designated

1 as a representative by a parent may permit any other person to  
2 have access to such information without a prior consent of the  
3 parent obtained in accordance with the requirements of  
4 subparagraph (8) of paragraph (a) of this Section.

5 (e) Nothing contained in this Act shall prohibit the  
6 publication of student directories which list student names,  
7 addresses and other identifying information and similar  
8 publications which comply with regulations issued by the State  
9 Board.

10 (Source: P.A. 102-199, eff. 7-1-22; 102-557, eff. 8-20-21;  
11 102-813, eff. 5-13-22.)

12 Section 915. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act  
13 is amended by adding Section 4.4d as follows:

14 (325 ILCS 5/4.4d new)

15 Sec. 4.4d. Duty to refer caller to regional office of  
16 education, intermediate service center, or superintendent.  
17 Whenever the Department receives, by means of its statewide  
18 toll-free telephone number established under Section 7.6 for  
19 the purpose of reporting suspected child abuse or neglect or  
20 by any other means or from any mandated reporter under Section  
21 4, a report of suspected truancy, the Department shall notify  
22 the caller that the report must go to the local regional office  
23 of education, intermediate service center, or general  
24 superintendent of schools or a designee of the superintendent

1 for a school district organized under Article 34 of the School  
2 Code that is associated with the child's address. The  
3 Department shall inform the caller of what website includes  
4 the information to find the relevant regional office of  
5 education, intermediate service center, or general  
6 superintendent of schools or a designee of the superintendent  
7 for a school district organized under Article 34 of the School  
8 Code.

9 Section 995. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act  
10 makes changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by  
11 text that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a  
12 Section represented by multiple versions), the use of that  
13 text does not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the  
14 changes made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any  
15 other Public Act.".