



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

**HB2848**

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Michelle Mussman

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new  
105 ILCS 5/2-3.207 new  
110 ILCS 947/65.135 new  
110 ILCS 947/65.140 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education shall establish a program of paid internships for students enrolled in educator preparation programs in the school support personnel endorsement areas of school social worker, school psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, and speech-language pathologist. Sets forth provisions concerning the program. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education shall establish and maintain a mentorship and recruitment program to develop and maintain interest in the school support personnel endorsement areas of school social worker, school psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, and speech-language pathologist. Sets forth provisions concerning the program. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall establish a school support personnel educator preparation scholarship program to annually award up to 250 scholarships for school psychology, school counseling, school nursing, and school speech-language pathology. Sets forth provisions concerning the scholarship program. Provides that, to encourage Illinois students to enter the fields of school psychology, school counseling, school nursing, and school speech-language pathology and to continue to work in those fields in public schools in this State, the Commission shall, each year, receive and consider applications for loan repayment assistance under a School Support Personnel Work Shortage Loan Repayment Program. Sets forth provisions concerning the Program. Effective immediately.

LRB104 11375 LNS 21463 b

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 adding Sections  
5 2-3.206 and 2-3.207 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.206. School support personnel paid internship  
8 program.

9 (a) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education  
10 shall establish a program of paid internships for students  
11 enrolled in educator preparation programs in the school  
12 support personnel endorsement areas of school social worker,  
13 school psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, and  
14 speech-language pathologist.

15 (b) A paid internship under the program shall be for one  
16 academic year and shall continue until the student has met the  
17 student's internship or field placement requirement as part of  
18 the educator preparation program in which the student is  
19 enrolled.

20 (c) Under the program, the rate of pay for the student may  
21 be no lower than the wage required under Section 4 of the  
22 Minimum Wage Law.

23 (d) If the amount of funds appropriated for the program is

1 insufficient to cover all internships in a given fiscal year,  
2 the State Board of Education shall allocate the funds  
3 available to internships in high need schools or school  
4 districts.

5 (e) To qualify for a paid internship under the program,  
6 the student must be supervised by an individual who holds a  
7 Professional Educator License under Article 21B with an  
8 endorsement in the student's area of study.

9 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.207 new)

10 Sec. 2-3.207. Mentorship and recruitment program.

11 (a) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education  
12 shall establish and maintain a mentorship and recruitment  
13 program to develop and maintain interest in the school support  
14 personnel endorsement areas of school social worker, school  
15 psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, and  
16 speech-language pathologist. The purpose of the program is to  
17 attract students in high schools, community colleges, and  
18 undergraduate higher education programs to school support  
19 personnel professions and to encourage students to continue on  
20 to complete appropriate educator preparation programs and  
21 employment in this State's public schools.

22 (b) The State Board of Education shall collaborate with  
23 the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College  
24 Board, institutions of higher education, and professional  
25 associations representing the respective school support

1 personnel endorsement areas to develop the program.

2 (c) If the funding appropriated for the program is  
3 insufficient to address all areas of this State, the program  
4 may be limited to those areas of highest need. A pilot program  
5 must cover all school support personnel endorsement areas.

6 Section 10. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is  
7 amended by adding Sections 65.135 and 65.140 as follows:

8 (110 ILCS 947/65.135 new)

9 Sec. 65.135. School support personnel educator preparation  
10 scholarship program.

11 (a) Subject to appropriation, beginning with the 2025-2026  
12 academic year, the Commission shall establish a school support  
13 personnel educator preparation scholarship program to annually  
14 award up to 250 scholarships for school psychology, school  
15 counseling, school nursing, and school speech-language  
16 pathology. A person is eligible for a scholarship if the  
17 person:

18 (1) is a United States citizen or eligible noncitizen;

19 (2) submits an application to the Commission for a  
20 scholarship;

21 (3) verifies that the person meets the requirements to  
22 enroll in an educator preparation program the successful  
23 completion of which will qualify the person for a school  
24 support personnel endorsement in the area of school

1 psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, or  
2 speech-language pathologist; and

3 (4) agrees to take the coursework necessary to earn a  
4 Professional Educator License with a school support  
5 personnel endorsement in the area of school psychologist,  
6 school counselor, school nurse, or speech-language  
7 pathologist.

8 (b) If funds are insufficient for a given fiscal year to  
9 provide all qualified applicants with a scholarship as  
10 authorized by this Section, the Commission shall allocate the  
11 available scholarship funds for that fiscal year to qualified  
12 applicants who submit a complete application on or before a  
13 date specified by the Commission, based on the following order  
14 of priority:

15 (1) first, to qualified applicants who received a  
16 scholarship under this Section in the prior academic year;

17 (2) second, to new, qualified applicants who are  
18 members of a racial minority as defined in subsection (d);  
19 and

20 (3) third, to other new, qualified applicants in  
21 accordance with this Section.

22 (c) Scholarships awarded under this Section shall be  
23 issued pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission.

24 (d) The General Assembly finds that racial minorities are  
25 underrepresented as school support personnel in elementary and  
26 secondary schools in this State and it is in the interest of

1 this State to provide them with priority consideration for  
2 programs that encourage their participation in school support  
3 personnel fields and thereby foster professions that are more  
4 reflective of the diversity of the Illinois students and their  
5 parents those professions serve. A more reflective workforce  
6 in school support personnel endorsement fields allows for  
7 improved outcomes for students and better utilization of  
8 services. Therefore, the Commission should give priority to  
9 those applicants who are members of a racial minority.

10 In this subsection (d), "racial minority" means a person  
11 who is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent  
12 resident alien of the United States and who is:

13 (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black  
14 racial groups in Africa);

15 (2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese  
16 culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,  
17 or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);

18 (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of  
19 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the  
20 Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or

21 (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having  
22 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

23 In awarding scholarships under this Section, the  
24 Commission shall give priority to those applicants who are  
25 members of a racial minority.

26 (e) Each scholarship awarded under this Section shall be

1 applied to the payment of tuition and mandatory fees at the  
2 University of Illinois, Southern Illinois University, Chicago  
3 State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State  
4 University, Illinois State University, Northeastern Illinois  
5 University, Northern Illinois University, or Western Illinois  
6 University. Each scholarship may be applied to pay tuition and  
7 mandatory fees required to obtain a Professional Educator  
8 License under Article 21B of the School Code with a school  
9 support personnel endorsement in the area of school  
10 psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, or  
11 speech-language pathologist.

12 (f) The Commission shall make tuition and fee payments  
13 directly to the qualified institution of higher learning that  
14 the applicant attends.

15 (g) Any person who has accepted a scholarship under this  
16 Section must, within one year after graduation or termination  
17 of enrollment in an educator preparation program to obtain a  
18 Professional Educator License with a school support personnel  
19 endorsement in the area of school psychologist, school  
20 counselor, school nurse, or speech-language pathologist, begin  
21 working in that endorsement area at a public or nonpublic  
22 not-for-profit preschool, elementary school, or secondary  
23 school located in this State for at least 2 of the 5 years  
24 immediately following that graduation or termination,  
25 excluding, however, from the computation of that 5-year  
26 period: (i) any time up to 3 years spent in military service,

1 whether such service occurs before or after the person  
2 graduates; (ii) the time that person is a person with a  
3 temporary total disability, for a period of time not to exceed  
4 3 years, as established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified  
5 physician; and (iii) the time that person is seeking and  
6 unable to find full-time employment in that person's field of  
7 endorsement at a public or nonpublic not-for-profit preschool,  
8 elementary school, or secondary school located in this State.

9 (h) If a recipient of a scholarship under this Section  
10 fails to fulfill the work obligation set forth in subsection  
11 (g), the Commission shall require the recipient to repay the  
12 amount of the scholarship received, prorated according to the  
13 fraction of the obligation not completed, at a rate of  
14 interest equal to 5%, and, if applicable, reasonable  
15 collection fees. The Commission is authorized to establish  
16 rules relating to its collection activities for repayment of  
17 scholarships under this Section. All repayments collected  
18 under this Section shall be forwarded to the State Comptroller  
19 for deposit into this State's General Revenue Fund.

20 (i) A recipient of a scholarship under this Section is not  
21 considered to be in violation of the failure to fulfill the  
22 work obligation under subsection (g) if the recipient (i)  
23 enrolls on a full-time basis as a graduate student in a course  
24 of study related to the recipient's field of endorsement at a  
25 qualified institution; (ii) is serving, not in excess of 3  
26 years, as a member of the armed services of the United States;

1 (iii) is a person with a temporary total disability for a  
2 period of time not to exceed 3 years, as established by the  
3 sworn affidavit of a qualified physician; (iv) is seeking and  
4 unable to find full-time employment in the recipient's field  
5 of endorsement at a public or non-public not-for-profit  
6 preschool, elementary school, or secondary school located in  
7 this State that satisfies the criteria set forth in subsection  
8 (g) and is able to provide evidence of that fact; or (v)  
9 becomes a person with a permanent total disability, as  
10 established by the sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

11 (110 ILCS 947/65.140 new)

12 Sec. 65.140. School Support Personnel Work Shortage Loan  
13 Repayment Program.

14 (a) To encourage Illinois students to enter the fields of  
15 school psychology, school counseling, school nursing, and  
16 school speech-language pathology and to continue to work in  
17 those fields in public schools in this State, the Commission  
18 shall, each year, receive and consider applications for loan  
19 repayment assistance under this Section. This program shall be  
20 known as the School Support Personnel Work Shortage Loan  
21 Repayment Program. The Commission shall administer the Program  
22 and shall adopt all necessary and proper rules to effectively  
23 implement the Program.

24 (b) Beginning July 1, 2025, subject to a separate  
25 appropriation made for such purposes, the Commission shall

1 award a grant, up to a maximum of \$6,500, to each qualified  
2 applicant. The Commission may encourage the recipient of a  
3 grant under this Section to use the grant award for repayment  
4 of the recipient's higher education loans.

5 If funds are insufficient for a given fiscal year to  
6 provide all qualified applicants with a grant as authorized by  
7 this Section, the Commission shall allocate the available  
8 grant funds for that fiscal year to qualified applicants who  
9 submit a complete application on or before a date specified by  
10 the Commission, based on the following order of priority:

11 (1) first, to new, qualified applicants who are  
12 members of a racial minority as defined in subsection (e);  
13 and

14 (2) second, to other new, qualified applicants in  
15 accordance with this Section.

16 (c) A person is a qualified applicant under this Section  
17 if the person meets all of the following qualifications:

18 (1) The person is a United States citizen or eligible  
19 noncitizen.

20 (2) The person is a resident of this State.

21 (3) The person is a borrower with an outstanding  
22 balance due on a higher education loan related to  
23 obtaining a degree in either school psychology, school  
24 counseling, school nursing, or school speech-language  
25 pathology.

26 (4) The person has been employed as a school

1 psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, or school  
2 speech-language pathologist by a public preschool,  
3 elementary school, or secondary school for at least 12  
4 consecutive months.

5 (5) The person is currently employed as a school  
6 psychologist, school counselor, school nurse, or school  
7 speech-language pathologist by a public preschool,  
8 elementary school, or secondary school in this State;

9 (d) An applicant shall submit an application, in a form  
10 determined by the Commission, for grant assistance under this  
11 Section to the Commission. An applicant is required to submit,  
12 with the application, such supporting documentation as the  
13 Commission may deem necessary.

14 (e) The General Assembly finds that racial minorities are  
15 underrepresented as school support personnel in preschools,  
16 elementary schools, and secondary schools in this State and it  
17 is in the interest of this State to provide them with priority  
18 consideration for programs that encourage their participation  
19 in this field and thereby foster school support personnel  
20 professions that are more reflective of the diversity of the  
21 Illinois students and their parents those professions will  
22 serve. A more reflective workforce in school support personnel  
23 professions allows for improved outcomes for students and  
24 better utilization of services. Therefore, the Commission  
25 should give priority to those applicants who are members of a  
26 racial minority.

1       In this subsection (e), "racial minority" means a person  
2 who is a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent  
3 resident alien of the United States and who is:

4           (1) Black (a person having origins in any of the black  
5 racial groups in Africa);

6           (2) Hispanic (a person of Spanish or Portuguese  
7 culture with origins in Mexico, South or Central America,  
8 or the Caribbean Islands, regardless of race);

9           (3) Asian American (a person having origins in any of  
10 the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the  
11 Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands); or

12           (4) American Indian or Alaskan Native (a person having  
13 origins in any of the original peoples of North America).

14       In awarding grants under this Section, the Commission  
15 shall give priority to those applicants who are members of a  
16 racial minority.

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