



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB2966

Introduced 2/6/2025, by Rep. Tracy Katz Muhl

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to analyze the use of grant fund requests for a consolidation analysis or consolidation expenses in relation to the School District Reorganization Feasibility Studies. Requires the State Board to create a list of overlapping or bordering school districts with the most similar operating tax rates and percentage of adequacy funding per pupil. Requires the State Board to communicate to the superintendents and school boards of those school districts on the list that the State Board's analysis makes the school district a good candidate for the grant funds. Requires the school board to hold a public hearing to review the State Board's written communication and decide whether to apply for the grant funds. Requires the State Board to report to the General Assembly as to whether the school districts on the list applied for the grant funds, whether a grant was awarded, and what, if any, State Board action was taken in response to the grant-funded consolidation analysis. Requires the State Board to also provide to interested school districts a list of neutral parties to conduct an independent consolidation analysis with the grant funds.

LRB104 11974 LNS 22068 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 Section
5 2-3.206 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.206 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.206. School district consolidation analysis. The
8 State Board of Education shall analyze the use of grant fund
9 requests for a consolidation analysis or consolidation
10 expenses in relation to the School District Reorganization
11 Feasibility Studies. The State Board shall create a list of
12 overlapping or bordering school districts with the most
13 similar operating tax rates and percentage of adequacy funding
14 per pupil. This list shall be long enough to use the available
15 grant funds, with an alternate list available.

16 The State Board shall communicate, in writing, to the
17 superintendents and school boards of those school districts on
18 the list that the State Board's analysis makes the school
19 district a good candidate for the grant funds. The school
20 board shall hold a public hearing, which may occur during a
21 regular or special meeting, to review the State Board's
22 written communication and decide whether to apply for the
23 grant funds. The State Board shall report to the General

1 Assembly as to whether the school districts on the list
2 applied for the grant funds, whether a grant was awarded, and
3 what, if any, State Board action was taken in response to the
4 grant-funded consolidation analysis.

5 The State Board shall also provide to interested school
6 districts a list of neutral parties to conduct an independent
7 consolidation analysis with the grant funds.