



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2448

Introduced 2/7/2025, by Sen. Christopher Belt

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5

105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a

105 ILCS 5/34-18

from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.5a

from Ch. 122, par. 34-18

Creates the Public University Direct Admission Program Act. Provides that, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the State Board of Education, shall establish and administer a direct admission program. Requires each public university in the direct admission program to identify and provide its grade point average standards for general admission for first time admission and for transfer students to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission by March 1 of each year. Provides that, beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall use data collected from school districts to determine which students meet the standards for general admission and provide the data to the Board of Higher Education. Provides that, beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the State Board of Education, shall develop, in consultation with the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a preselection outreach campaign to encourage qualifying State high school juniors and seniors to apply to the University of Illinois at Chicago or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Requires the Board of Higher Education to submit a report on the direct admission program and the preselection outreach campaign to the Governor and General Assembly by August 1, 2029 and each August 1 thereafter. Amends the School Code. Requires a school board to provide access to high school student directory information and each student's email address and grade point average to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and each public institution of higher education for the purpose of informing students of educational and career opportunities.

LRB104 12245 LNS 22352 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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Public
5 University Direct Admission Program Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds all of the
7 following:

8 (1) Illinois has a strong system of public higher
9 education, including public universities and community
10 colleges across the State.

11 (2) The Illinois economy thrives when Illinois
12 students choose to pursue postsecondary education at
13 Illinois institutions of higher education.

14 (3) According to the National Bureau of Economic
15 Research, two-thirds of graduates stay and work in the
16 state in which they matriculated.

17 (4) Students who have been historically underserved,
18 such as students who are the first in their families to go
19 to college, students who come from low-income families or
20 communities, students of color, and students from rural
21 communities, among others, often face the greatest
22 barriers to accessing higher education, in part because of
23 a lack of information.

1 (5) Every eligible high school junior and senior in
2 Illinois should receive an offer to an Illinois
3 institution of higher education, including public
4 universities and community colleges.

5 (6) Every eligible public community college student
6 seeking a transfer pathway should receive an offer to a
7 public university in Illinois.

8 (7) Illinois can and should develop the tools and
9 technology to dramatically simplify the public university
10 and community college application and admission process
11 for Illinois students.

12 Section 10. Definition. In this Act, "public university"
13 means the University of Illinois at Springfield, Southern
14 Illinois University, Chicago State University, Eastern
15 Illinois University, Governors State University, Illinois
16 State University, Northeastern Illinois University, Northern
17 Illinois University, Western Illinois University, or any other
18 public university established or authorized by the General
19 Assembly after the effective date of this Act.

20 Section 15. Direct admission program.

21 (a) Beginning with the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board
22 of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois
23 Community College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance
24 Commission, and the State Board of Education, shall establish

1 and administer a direct admission program. Consistent with the
2 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and
3 the School Code, the direct admission program shall
4 automatically offer general admission into a public university
5 or community college to qualified high school seniors in this
6 State and to public community college students in this State
7 who qualify to transfer to a public university.

8 (b) Each public university in the direct admission program
9 shall identify and provide its grade point average standards
10 for general admission for first time admission and for
11 transfer students to the Illinois Student Assistance
12 Commission by March 1 of each year. The Illinois Student
13 Assistance Commission in collaboration with the Board of
14 Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board
15 shall determine which students meet the standards for general
16 admission for each public university in the direct admission
17 program, and that information shall be made available to the
18 Board of Higher Education. The Board of Higher Education shall
19 notify the student and to each public university. Each public
20 university may also notify qualified students.

21 (c) Beginning July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, the
22 Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall use data
23 collected from school districts pursuant to Section 10-20.5a
24 and paragraph 16 of Section 34-18 paragraph 16 of the School
25 Code for purposes of subsection (b) to determine which
26 students meet the standards for general admission and provide

1 the data to the Board of Higher Education.

2 (d) As all public community colleges in this State are
3 open-access institutions, student directory information shall
4 be used to identify a student's local public community
5 college, and the community college shall be included on all
6 correspondence to a student indicating the student's
7 acceptance to the community college alongside those public
8 universities that offer the student direct admission, pursuant
9 to subsection (b). The public community college may also
10 notify students within their district directly. Under the
11 direct admission program, a public community college shall
12 offer admission to all students who are residents of the
13 community college district. Under the direct admission
14 program, a public university shall offer general admission to
15 any high school senior in this State who meets the public
16 university's standards for admission, as identified under
17 subsection (b), and to any public community college transfer
18 student transferring to a public university who meets all of
19 the following requirements:

20 (1) Is enrolled at a public community college in this
21 State.

22 (2) Has earned a minimum of 30 graded, transferable
23 semester hours.

24 (3) Meets the minimum grade point average requirement
25 as set by the public university as reported to Board of
26 Higher Education.

1 By July 1 of each year, community college districts shall
2 provide on an equal basis and consistent with the federal
3 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, access to
4 community college student directory information and each
5 student's email address and grade point average to the
6 Illinois Community College Board for the purpose of informing
7 students of educational and career opportunities. Prior to
8 transmitting the student's directory information, email
9 address, and grade point average, each community college
10 district will receive written consent of the student if they
11 are 18 years of age or older or the student's parent of
12 guardian if the student is younger than 18 years of age.
13 Community college students are encouraged to consult the
14 Illinois Articulation Initiative General Education Core
15 Curriculum course list and other resources at the State and
16 university level to determine course transferability for
17 purposes of paragraph (2). Community college students who have
18 not completed a degree prior to transfer shall be notified by
19 the public university in which they are enrolled to consult
20 the Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act to determine if
21 they are eligible for reverse transfer of credits for the
22 purpose of obtaining an associate degree.

23 (e) In establishing the direct admission program, the
24 Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with the Illinois
25 Community College Board, shall specifically evaluate the
26 impact on enrollment of low-income students, students of

1 color, first generation college students, students from
2 populations underserved in higher education, and students from
3 rural areas of this State.

4 (f) The direct admission program may gather data and
5 develop the technology to automatically notify high school
6 seniors in this State and public community college transfer
7 students of the direct admission program for the public
8 universities for which those students qualify, based on the
9 standards submitted under subsection (b) or, in the case of
10 public community colleges, based on the community college
11 district where those students reside.

12 (g) The direct admission program may use the services of a
13 statewide student application portal and aggregator to provide
14 the automatic notification in subsection (f). The notification
15 shall include the student's local public community college,
16 consistent with the requirements in subsection (b).

17 (h) The direct admission program shall provide admitted
18 high school seniors in this State and public community college
19 transfer students with the website address for the Illinois
20 Student Assistance Commission to find information regarding
21 State grant programs, support for financial aid application
22 completion, scholarship searches, and other financial
23 aid-related information and shall encourage students to
24 determine their eligibility for financial aid based on the
25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or, if applicable, an
26 application for State financial aid.

1 (i) A public university or community college may verify
2 applicant information, including transcripts, Illinois
3 residency, and high school graduation in determining
4 eligibility for enrollment. A public university or community
5 college may revoke admission if an applicant does not meet the
6 public university's or community college's direct admission
7 criteria as specified in this Act before enrolling at the
8 public university or community college.

9 The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community
10 College Board shall adopt joint rules to develop procedures
11 for the implementation of this Section.

12 Section 20. Preselection outreach campaign. Beginning with
13 the 2027-2028 academic year, the Board of Higher Education, in
14 collaboration with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission
15 and the State Board of Education, shall develop, in
16 consultation with the University of Illinois at Chicago and
17 the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a preselection
18 outreach campaign to encourage qualifying State high school
19 juniors and seniors to apply to the University of Illinois at
20 Chicago or the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
21 Preselection qualifying students shall be identified and
22 encouraged to apply in the following manner:

23 (1) The University of Illinois at Chicago and the
24 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shall determine
25 the criteria by which students shall be identified for the

1 preselection campaign, in consultation with the
2 universities' faculty and faculty senates. The University
3 of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at
4 Urbana-Champaign shall provide the preselection criteria
5 to the Board of Higher Education, as long as the
6 preselection criteria is based on data available to the
7 Board of Higher Education, by March 1 each year.

8 (2) The University of Illinois at Chicago and the
9 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shall provide
10 the Board of Higher Education with the content of the
11 communication to be shared with students describing how to
12 request information on how to apply. The Board of Higher
13 Education shall use the same portal or mechanisms for this
14 communication as used for offers of direct admission under
15 Section 15.

16 (3) The Board of Higher Education, in collaboration
17 with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission and the
18 State Board of Education, shall provide the University of
19 Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at
20 Urbana-Champaign with the contact information of the
21 students who meet the eligibility criteria defined by the
22 University of Illinois at Chicago or the University of
23 Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

24 (4) The Board of Higher Education may adopt any rules
25 necessary to administer this Section.

1 Section 25. Direct admission program and preselection
2 outreach campaign report.

3 (a) The Board of Higher Education shall submit a report on
4 the direct admission program and the preselection outreach
5 campaign to the Governor and General Assembly by August 1,
6 2029 and each August 1 thereafter. The report shall include,
7 but is not limited to, information related to implementation
8 of the direct admission program, the demographic and
9 geographic data of students offered direct admission and the
10 public university or community college to which direct
11 admission was offered, the demographic and geographic data of
12 students who qualified for preselection to the University of
13 Illinois at Chicago and the University of Illinois at
14 Urbana-Champaign under Section 18, those who applied, and
15 those who were offered admission, the demographic and
16 geographic data of high school seniors and public community
17 college transfer students who accepted direct admission and
18 enrolled in the public university or public community college
19 that offered that direct admission, changes in admissions and
20 enrollment over time of high school seniors and public
21 community college transfer students through the direct
22 admission program, and recommendations to improve the direct
23 admission program. The Board of Higher Education shall
24 collaborate with the Illinois Community College Board, the
25 State Board of Education, the Illinois Student Assistance
26 Commission, and public universities to collect data necessary

1 to fulfill the reporting requirements of this Section.

2 (b) The Board of Higher Education, in collaboration with
3 the Illinois Community College Board, shall adopt any rules
4 necessary to administer this Section.

5 Section 30. The School Code is amended by changing
6 Sections 2-3.64a-5, 10-20.5a, and 34-18 as follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.64a-5)

8 Sec. 2-3.64a-5. State goals and assessment.

9 (a) For the assessment and accountability purposes of this
10 Section, "students" includes those students enrolled in a
11 public or State-operated elementary school, secondary school,
12 or cooperative or joint agreement with a governing body or
13 board of control, a charter school operating in compliance
14 with the Charter Schools Law, a school operated by a regional
15 office of education under Section 13A-3 of this Code, or a
16 public school administered by a local public agency or the
17 Department of Human Services.

18 (b) The State Board of Education shall establish the
19 academic standards that are to be applicable to students who
20 are subject to State assessments under this Section. The State
21 Board of Education shall not establish any such standards in
22 final form without first providing opportunities for public
23 participation and local input in the development of the final
24 academic standards. Those opportunities shall include a

1 well-publicized period of public comment and opportunities to
2 file written comments.

3 (c) Beginning no later than the 2014-2015 school year, the
4 State Board of Education shall annually assess all students
5 enrolled in grades 3 through 8 in English language arts and
6 mathematics.

7 Beginning no later than the 2017-2018 school year, the
8 State Board of Education shall annually assess all students in
9 science at one grade in grades 3 through 5, at one grade in
10 grades 6 through 8, and at one grade in grades 9 through 12.

11 The State Board of Education shall annually assess schools
12 that operate a secondary education program, as defined in
13 Section 22-22 of this Code, in English language arts and
14 mathematics. The State Board of Education shall administer no
15 more than 3 assessments, per student, of English language arts
16 and mathematics for students in a secondary education program.
17 One of these assessments shall be recognized by this State's
18 public institutions of higher education, as defined in the
19 Board of Higher Education Act, for the purpose of student
20 application or admissions consideration. The assessment
21 administered by the State Board of Education for the purpose
22 of student application to or admissions consideration by
23 institutions of higher education must be administered on a
24 school day during regular student attendance hours, and
25 student profile information collected by the assessment shall,
26 if available, be made available to the State's public

1 institutions of higher education in a timely manner.

2 Students who do not take the State's final accountability
3 assessment or its approved alternate assessment may not
4 receive a regular high school diploma unless the student is
5 exempted from taking the State assessments under subsection
6 (d) of this Section because the student is enrolled in a
7 program of adult and continuing education, as defined in the
8 Adult Education Act, or the student is identified by the State
9 Board of Education, through rules, as being exempt from the
10 assessment.

11 The State Board of Education shall not assess students
12 under this Section in subjects not required by this Section.

13 Districts shall inform their students of the timelines and
14 procedures applicable to their participation in every yearly
15 administration of the State assessments. The State Board of
16 Education shall establish periods of time in each school year
17 during which State assessments shall occur to meet the
18 objectives of this Section.

19 The requirements of this subsection do not apply if the
20 State Board of Education has received a waiver from the
21 administration of assessments from the U.S. Department of
22 Education.

23 (d) Every individualized educational program as described
24 in Article 14 shall identify if the State assessment or
25 components thereof require accommodation for the student. The
26 State Board of Education shall develop rules governing the

1 administration of an alternate assessment that may be
2 available to students for whom participation in this State's
3 regular assessments is not appropriate, even with
4 accommodations as allowed under this Section.

5 Students receiving special education services whose
6 individualized educational programs identify them as eligible
7 for the alternative State assessments nevertheless shall have
8 the option of also taking this State's regular final
9 accountability assessment, which shall be administered in
10 accordance with the eligible accommodations appropriate for
11 meeting these students' respective needs.

12 All students determined to be English learners shall
13 participate in the State assessments. The scores of those
14 students who have been enrolled in schools in the United
15 States for less than 12 months may not be used for the purposes
16 of accountability. Any student determined to be an English
17 learner shall receive appropriate assessment accommodations,
18 including language supports, which shall be established by
19 rule. Approved assessment accommodations must be provided
20 until the student's English language skills develop to the
21 extent that the student is no longer considered to be an
22 English learner, as demonstrated through a State-identified
23 English language proficiency assessment.

24 (e) The results or scores of each assessment taken under
25 this Section shall be made available to the parents of each
26 student.

1 In each school year, the scores attained by a student on
2 the final accountability assessment must be placed in the
3 student's permanent record pursuant to rules that the State
4 Board of Education shall adopt for that purpose in accordance
5 with Section 3 of the Illinois School Student Records Act. In
6 each school year, the scores attained by a student on the State
7 assessments administered in grades 3 through 8 must be placed
8 in the student's temporary record.

9 (f) All schools shall administer the State's academic
10 assessment of English language proficiency to all children
11 determined to be English learners.

12 (g) All schools in this State that are part of the sample
13 drawn by the National Center for Education Statistics, in
14 collaboration with their school districts and the State Board
15 of Education, shall administer the academic assessments under
16 the National Assessment of Educational Progress carried out
17 under Section 411(b)(2) of the federal National Education
18 Statistics Act of 1994 (20 U.S.C. 9010) if the U.S. Secretary
19 of Education pays the costs of administering the assessments.

20 (h) (Blank).

21 (i) For the purposes of this subsection (i), "academically
22 based assessments" means assessments consisting of questions
23 and answers that are measurable and quantifiable to measure
24 the knowledge, skills, and ability of students in the subject
25 matters covered by the assessments. All assessments
26 administered pursuant to this Section must be academically

1 based assessments. The scoring of academically based
2 assessments shall be reliable, valid, and fair and shall meet
3 the guidelines for assessment development and use prescribed
4 by the American Psychological Association, the National
5 Council on Measurement in Education, and the American
6 Educational Research Association.

7 The State Board of Education shall review the use of all
8 assessment item types in order to ensure that they are valid
9 and reliable indicators of student performance aligned to the
10 learning standards being assessed and that the development,
11 administration, and scoring of these item types are
12 justifiable in terms of cost.

13 (j) The State Superintendent of Education shall appoint a
14 committee of no more than 21 members, consisting of parents,
15 teachers, school administrators, school board members,
16 assessment experts, regional superintendents of schools, and
17 citizens, to review the State assessments administered by the
18 State Board of Education. The Committee shall select one of
19 its members as its chairperson. The Committee shall meet on an
20 ongoing basis to review the content and design of the
21 assessments (including whether the requirements of subsection
22 (i) of this Section have been met), the time and money expended
23 at the local and State levels to prepare for and administer the
24 assessments, the collective results of the assessments as
25 measured against the stated purpose of assessing student
26 performance, and other issues involving the assessments

1 identified by the Committee. The Committee shall make periodic
2 recommendations to the State Superintendent of Education and
3 the General Assembly concerning the assessments.

4 (k) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
5 implement this Section.

6 (Source: P.A. 103-204, eff. 1-1-24.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.5a) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.5a)

8 Sec. 10-20.5a. Access to high school campus.

9 (a) In this Section, "public institution of higher
10 education" has the meaning given to that term in the Board of
11 Higher Education Act.

12 (a-3) For school districts maintaining grades 10 through
13 12, to provide, on an equal basis, and consistent with the
14 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,
15 access to a high school campus and student directory
16 information to the official recruiting representatives of the
17 armed forces of Illinois and the United States, and State
18 public institutions of higher education for the purpose of
19 informing students of educational and career opportunities if
20 the board has provided such access to persons or groups whose
21 purpose is to acquaint students with educational or
22 occupational opportunities available to them. The board is not
23 required to give greater notice regarding the right of access
24 to recruiting representatives than is given to other persons
25 and groups. In this Section, "directory information" means a

1 high school student's name, address, and telephone number.

2 (a-5) For a school district maintaining grades 10 through
3 12, to provide, on an equal basis and consistent with the
4 federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,
5 access to high school student directory information and each
6 student's email address and grade point average to the
7 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and each public
8 institution of higher education for the purpose of informing
9 students of educational and career opportunities.

10 (b) If a student or his or her parent or guardian submits a
11 signed, written request to the high school before the end of
12 the student's sophomore year (or if the student is a transfer
13 student, by another time set by the high school) that
14 indicates that the student or his or her parent or guardian
15 does not want the student's directory information to be
16 provided to official recruiting representatives under
17 subsection (a-3) ~~(a)~~ of this Section, the high school may not
18 provide access to the student's directory information to these
19 recruiting representatives. The high school shall notify its
20 students and their parents or guardians of the provisions of
21 this subsection (b).

22 (b-5) If a student, who is 18 years of age or older or the
23 parent or guardian of a student who is under 18 years of age
24 submits a signed, written request to the high school before
25 the start of the student's junior year, or if the student is a
26 transfer student, by another time set by the high school, that

1 indicates that the student or his or her parent or guardian
2 does permit the student's directory information and the
3 student's email address and grade point average to be provided
4 under subsection (a-5), the high school shall provide the
5 student's directory information and the student's email
6 address and grade point average to each public institution of
7 higher education, and the Illinois Student Assistance
8 Commission. The high school shall notify its students and
9 their parents or guardians of the provisions of this
10 subsection and, at the time of school registration, give its
11 students and their parents or guardians the option for the
12 student information to be shared for this purpose.

13 (c) A high school may require official recruiting
14 representatives of the armed forces of Illinois and the United
15 States to pay a fee for copying and mailing a student's
16 directory information in an amount that is not more than the
17 actual costs incurred by the high school.

18 (d) Information received by an official ~~recruiting~~
19 ~~representative~~ under this Section may be used only to provide
20 information to students concerning educational and career
21 opportunities and to assist in designating State Scholars
22 under Section 25 of the Higher Education Student Assistance
23 Act. Information may not be released to a person who is not
24 involved in recruiting students for the armed forces of
25 Illinois or the United States or providing educational
26 opportunity information for the Board of Higher Education, the

1 Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student
2 Assistance Commission, or public ~~State~~ institutions of higher
3 education.

4 (e) By July 1, 2026 and each July 1 thereafter, each school
5 district under this Section shall make high school ~~January 1,~~
6 2024, student ~~directory~~ information ~~shall be made~~
7 electronically accessible through a secure centralized data
8 system for official recruiting representatives of the armed
9 forces of Illinois and the United States, as well as to the
10 Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and ~~State~~ public
11 institutions of higher education.

12 The Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community
13 College Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and
14 the State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary to
15 administer this Section.

16 (Source: P.A. 103-204, eff. 1-1-24.)

17 (105 ILCS 5/34-18) (from Ch. 122, par. 34-18)

18 Sec. 34-18. Powers of the board. The board shall exercise
19 general supervision and jurisdiction over the public education
20 and the public school system of the city, and, except as
21 otherwise provided by this Article, shall have power:

22 1. To make suitable provision for the establishment
23 and maintenance throughout the year or for such portion
24 thereof as it may direct, not less than 9 months and in
25 compliance with Section 10-19.05, of schools of all grades

1 and kinds, including normal schools, high schools, night
2 schools, schools for defectives and delinquents, parental
3 and truant schools, schools for the blind, the deaf, and
4 persons with physical disabilities, schools or classes in
5 manual training, constructural and vocational teaching,
6 domestic arts, and physical culture, vocation and
7 extension schools and lecture courses, and all other
8 educational courses and facilities, including
9 establishing, equipping, maintaining and operating
10 playgrounds and recreational programs, when such programs
11 are conducted in, adjacent to, or connected with any
12 public school under the general supervision and
13 jurisdiction of the board; provided that the calendar for
14 the school term and any changes must be submitted to and
15 approved by the State Board of Education before the
16 calendar or changes may take effect, and provided that in
17 allocating funds from year to year for the operation of
18 all attendance centers within the district, the board
19 shall ensure that supplemental general State aid or
20 supplemental grant funds are allocated and applied in
21 accordance with Section 18-8, 18-8.05, or 18-8.15. To
22 admit to such schools without charge foreign exchange
23 students who are participants in an organized exchange
24 student program which is authorized by the board. The
25 board shall permit all students to enroll in
26 apprenticeship programs in trade schools operated by the

1 board, whether those programs are union-sponsored or not.
2 No student shall be refused admission into or be excluded
3 from any course of instruction offered in the common
4 schools by reason of that student's sex. No student shall
5 be denied equal access to physical education and
6 interscholastic athletic programs supported from school
7 district funds or denied participation in comparable
8 physical education and athletic programs solely by reason
9 of the student's sex. Equal access to programs supported
10 from school district funds and comparable programs will be
11 defined in rules promulgated by the State Board of
12 Education in consultation with the Illinois High School
13 Association. Notwithstanding any other provision of this
14 Article, neither the board of education nor any local
15 school council or other school official shall recommend
16 that children with disabilities be placed into regular
17 education classrooms unless those children with
18 disabilities are provided with supplementary services to
19 assist them so that they benefit from the regular
20 classroom instruction and are included on the teacher's
21 regular education class register;

22 2. To furnish lunches to pupils, to make a reasonable
23 charge therefor, and to use school funds for the payment
24 of such expenses as the board may determine are necessary
25 in conducting the school lunch program;

26 3. To co-operate with the circuit court;

1 4. To make arrangements with the public or
2 quasi-public libraries and museums for the use of their
3 facilities by teachers and pupils of the public schools;

4 5. To employ dentists and prescribe their duties for
5 the purpose of treating the pupils in the schools, but
6 accepting such treatment shall be optional with parents or
7 guardians;

8 6. To grant the use of assembly halls and classrooms
9 when not otherwise needed, including light, heat, and
10 attendants, for free public lectures, concerts, and other
11 educational and social interests, free of charge, under
12 such provisions and control as the principal of the
13 affected attendance center may prescribe;

14 7. To apportion the pupils to the several schools;
15 provided that no pupil shall be excluded from or
16 segregated in any such school on account of his color,
17 race, sex, or nationality. The board shall take into
18 consideration the prevention of segregation and the
19 elimination of separation of children in public schools
20 because of color, race, sex, or nationality. Except that
21 children may be committed to or attend parental and social
22 adjustment schools established and maintained either for
23 boys or girls only. All records pertaining to the
24 creation, alteration or revision of attendance areas shall
25 be open to the public. Nothing herein shall limit the
26 board's authority to establish multi-area attendance

1 centers or other student assignment systems for
2 desegregation purposes or otherwise, and to apportion the
3 pupils to the several schools. Furthermore, beginning in
4 school year 1994-95, pursuant to a board plan adopted by
5 October 1, 1993, the board shall offer, commencing on a
6 phased-in basis, the opportunity for families within the
7 school district to apply for enrollment of their children
8 in any attendance center within the school district which
9 does not have selective admission requirements approved by
10 the board. The appropriate geographical area in which such
11 open enrollment may be exercised shall be determined by
12 the board of education. Such children may be admitted to
13 any such attendance center on a space available basis
14 after all children residing within such attendance
15 center's area have been accommodated. If the number of
16 applicants from outside the attendance area exceed the
17 space available, then successful applicants shall be
18 selected by lottery. The board of education's open
19 enrollment plan must include provisions that allow
20 low-income students to have access to transportation
21 needed to exercise school choice. Open enrollment shall be
22 in compliance with the provisions of the Consent Decree
23 and Desegregation Plan cited in Section 34-1.01;

24 8. To approve programs and policies for providing
25 transportation services to students. Nothing herein shall
26 be construed to permit or empower the State Board of

1 Education to order, mandate, or require busing or other
2 transportation of pupils for the purpose of achieving
3 racial balance in any school;

4 9. Subject to the limitations in this Article, to
5 establish and approve system-wide curriculum objectives
6 and standards, including graduation standards, which
7 reflect the multi-cultural diversity in the city and are
8 consistent with State law, provided that for all purposes
9 of this Article courses or proficiency in American Sign
10 Language shall be deemed to constitute courses or
11 proficiency in a foreign language; and to employ
12 principals and teachers, appointed as provided in this
13 Article, and fix their compensation. The board shall
14 prepare such reports related to minimal competency testing
15 as may be requested by the State Board of Education and, in
16 addition, shall monitor and approve special education and
17 bilingual education programs and policies within the
18 district to ensure that appropriate services are provided
19 in accordance with applicable State and federal laws to
20 children requiring services and education in those areas;

21 10. To employ non-teaching personnel or utilize
22 volunteer personnel for: (i) non-teaching duties not
23 requiring instructional judgment or evaluation of pupils,
24 including library duties; and (ii) supervising study
25 halls, long distance teaching reception areas used
26 incident to instructional programs transmitted by

1 electronic media such as computers, video, and audio,
2 detention and discipline areas, and school-sponsored
3 extracurricular activities. The board may further utilize
4 volunteer nonlicensed personnel or employ nonlicensed
5 personnel to assist in the instruction of pupils under the
6 immediate supervision of a teacher holding a valid
7 educator license, directly engaged in teaching subject
8 matter or conducting activities; provided that the teacher
9 shall be continuously aware of the nonlicensed persons'
10 activities and shall be able to control or modify them.
11 The general superintendent shall determine qualifications
12 of such personnel and shall prescribe rules for
13 determining the duties and activities to be assigned to
14 such personnel;

15 10.5. To utilize volunteer personnel from a regional
16 School Crisis Assistance Team (S.C.A.T.), created as part
17 of the Safe to Learn Program established pursuant to
18 Section 25 of the Illinois Violence Prevention Act of
19 1995, to provide assistance to schools in times of
20 violence or other traumatic incidents within a school
21 community by providing crisis intervention services to
22 lessen the effects of emotional trauma on individuals and
23 the community; the School Crisis Assistance Team Steering
24 Committee shall determine the qualifications for
25 volunteers;

26 11. To provide television studio facilities in not to

1 exceed one school building and to provide programs for
2 educational purposes, provided, however, that the board
3 shall not construct, acquire, operate, or maintain a
4 television transmitter; to grant the use of its studio
5 facilities to a licensed television station located in the
6 school district; and to maintain and operate not to exceed
7 one school radio transmitting station and provide programs
8 for educational purposes;

9 12. To offer, if deemed appropriate, outdoor education
10 courses, including field trips within the State of
11 Illinois, or adjacent states, and to use school
12 educational funds for the expense of the said outdoor
13 educational programs, whether within the school district
14 or not;

15 13. During that period of the calendar year not
16 embraced within the regular school term, to provide and
17 conduct courses in subject matters normally embraced in
18 the program of the schools during the regular school term
19 and to give regular school credit for satisfactory
20 completion by the student of such courses as may be
21 approved for credit by the State Board of Education;

22 14. To insure against any loss or liability of the
23 board, the former School Board Nominating Commission,
24 Local School Councils, the Chicago Schools Academic
25 Accountability Council, or the former Subdistrict Councils
26 or of any member, officer, agent, or employee thereof,

1 resulting from alleged violations of civil rights arising
2 from incidents occurring on or after September 5, 1967 or
3 from the wrongful or negligent act or omission of any such
4 person whether occurring within or without the school
5 premises, provided the officer, agent, or employee was, at
6 the time of the alleged violation of civil rights or
7 wrongful act or omission, acting within the scope of his
8 or her employment or under direction of the board, the
9 former School Board Nominating Commission, the Chicago
10 Schools Academic Accountability Council, Local School
11 Councils, or the former Subdistrict Councils; and to
12 provide for or participate in insurance plans for its
13 officers and employees, including, but not limited to,
14 retirement annuities, medical, surgical and
15 hospitalization benefits in such types and amounts as may
16 be determined by the board; provided, however, that the
17 board shall contract for such insurance only with an
18 insurance company authorized to do business in this State.
19 Such insurance may include provision for employees who
20 rely on treatment by prayer or spiritual means alone for
21 healing, in accordance with the tenets and practice of a
22 recognized religious denomination;

23 15. To contract with the corporate authorities of any
24 municipality or the county board of any county, as the
25 case may be, to provide for the regulation of traffic in
26 parking areas of property used for school purposes, in

1 such manner as is provided by Section 11-209 of the
2 Illinois Vehicle Code;

3 16. In this paragraph:

4 "Directory information" means a high school student's
5 name, address, and telephone number.

6 "Public institution of higher education" has the
7 meaning given to that term in the Board of Higher
8 Education Act.

9 (a) To provide, on an equal basis and consistent with
10 the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of
11 1974, access to a high school campus and student directory
12 information to the official recruiting representatives of
13 the armed forces of Illinois and the United States for the
14 purposes of informing students of ~~the~~ educational and
15 career opportunities ~~available in the military~~ if the
16 board has provided such access to persons or groups whose
17 purpose is to acquaint students with educational or
18 occupational opportunities available to them. The board is
19 not required to give greater notice regarding the right of
20 access to recruiting representatives than is given to
21 other persons and groups. In this paragraph 16, "directory
22 information" means a high school student's name, address,
23 and telephone number.

24 (a-5) To provide, on an equal basis and consistent
25 with the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act
26 of 1974, access to high school student directory

1 information and each student's email address and grade
2 point average to each public institution of higher
3 education, the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois
4 Community College Board, and the Illinois Student
5 Assistance Commission for the purpose of informing
6 students of educational and career opportunities.

7 (b) If a student or his or her parent or guardian
8 submits a signed, written request to the high school
9 before the end of the student's sophomore year (or if the
10 student is a transfer student, by another time set by the
11 high school) that indicates that the student or his or her
12 parent or guardian does not want the student's directory
13 information to be provided to official recruiting
14 representatives under subparagraph ~~subsection~~ (a) of
15 paragraph 1 of this Section, the high school may not
16 provide access to the student's directory information to
17 these recruiting representatives. The high school shall
18 notify its students and their parents or guardians of the
19 provisions of this subparagraph ~~subsection (b)~~.

20 (b-5) If a student, who is 18 years of age or older, or
21 the parent or guardian of a student under 18 years of age
22 submits a signed, written request to the high school
23 before the start of the student's junior year, or if the
24 student is a transfer student by another time set by the
25 high school, that indicates that the student or his or her
26 parent or guardian does permit the student's directory

1 information and the student's email address and grade
2 point average to be provided, the high school shall
3 provide the student's directory information and the
4 student's email address and grade point average to each
5 public institution of higher education, the Board of
6 Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board,
7 and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. The high
8 school shall notify its students and their parents or
9 guardians of the provisions of this subparagraph and, at
10 the time of school registration, give its students and
11 their parents or guardians the option for the student
12 information to be shared for this purpose.

13 (c) A high school may require official recruiting
14 representatives of the armed forces of Illinois and the
15 United States to pay a fee for copying and mailing a
16 student's directory information in an amount that is not
17 more than the actual costs incurred by the high school.

18 (d) Information received by an official ~~recruiting~~
19 ~~representative~~ under this Section may be used only to
20 provide information to students concerning educational and
21 career opportunities ~~available in the military~~ and to
22 assist in designating State Scholars under Section 25 of
23 the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Information
24 may not be released to a person who is not involved in
25 recruiting students for the armed forces of Illinois or
26 the United States or providing educational opportunity

1 information for the Board of Higher Education, the
2 Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois Student
3 Assistance Commission, or public institutions of higher
4 education.

5 (e) By July 1, 2026 the school district shall make
6 student directory information electronically accessible
7 for official recruiting representatives of the armed
8 forces of Illinois or the United States, as well as to the
9 Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College
10 Board, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and
11 public institutions of higher education, as set forth in
12 subparagraphs (a) and (a-5) of this paragraph;

13 17. (a) To sell or market any computer program
14 developed by an employee of the school district, provided
15 that such employee developed the computer program as a
16 direct result of his or her duties with the school
17 district or through the utilization of school district
18 resources or facilities. The employee who developed the
19 computer program shall be entitled to share in the
20 proceeds of such sale or marketing of the computer
21 program. The distribution of such proceeds between the
22 employee and the school district shall be as agreed upon
23 by the employee and the school district, except that
24 neither the employee nor the school district may receive
25 more than 90% of such proceeds. The negotiation for an
26 employee who is represented by an exclusive bargaining

1 representative may be conducted by such bargaining
2 representative at the employee's request.

3 (b) For the purpose of this paragraph 17:

4 (1) "Computer" means an internally programmed, general
5 purpose digital device capable of automatically accepting
6 data, processing data and supplying the results of the
7 operation.

8 (2) "Computer program" means a series of coded
9 instructions or statements in a form acceptable to a
10 computer, which causes the computer to process data in
11 order to achieve a certain result.

12 (3) "Proceeds" means profits derived from the
13 marketing or sale of a product after deducting the
14 expenses of developing and marketing such product;

15 18. To delegate to the general superintendent of
16 schools, by resolution, the authority to approve contracts
17 and expenditures in amounts of \$35,000 or less;

18 19. Upon the written request of an employee, to
19 withhold from the compensation of that employee any dues,
20 payments, or contributions payable by such employee to any
21 labor organization as defined in the Illinois Educational
22 Labor Relations Act. Under such arrangement, an amount
23 shall be withheld from each regular payroll period which
24 is equal to the pro rata share of the annual dues plus any
25 payments or contributions, and the board shall transmit
26 such withholdings to the specified labor organization

1 within 10 working days from the time of the withholding;

2 19a. Upon receipt of notice from the comptroller of a
3 municipality with a population of 500,000 or more, a
4 county with a population of 3,000,000 or more, the Cook
5 County Forest Preserve District, the Chicago Park
6 District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the
7 Chicago Transit Authority, or a housing authority of a
8 municipality with a population of 500,000 or more that a
9 debt is due and owing the municipality, the county, the
10 Cook County Forest Preserve District, the Chicago Park
11 District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the
12 Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing authority by an
13 employee of the Chicago Board of Education, to withhold,
14 from the compensation of that employee, the amount of the
15 debt that is due and owing and pay the amount withheld to
16 the municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest
17 Preserve District, the Chicago Park District, the
18 Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, the Chicago
19 Transit Authority, or the housing authority; provided,
20 however, that the amount deducted from any one salary or
21 wage payment shall not exceed 25% of the net amount of the
22 payment. Before the Board deducts any amount from any
23 salary or wage of an employee under this paragraph, the
24 municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve
25 District, the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan
26 Water Reclamation District, the Chicago Transit Authority,

1 or the housing authority shall certify that (i) the
2 employee has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing to
3 dispute the debt that is due and owing the municipality,
4 the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the
5 Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
6 District, the Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing
7 authority and (ii) the employee has received notice of a
8 wage deduction order and has been afforded an opportunity
9 for a hearing to object to the order. For purposes of this
10 paragraph, "net amount" means that part of the salary or
11 wage payment remaining after the deduction of any amounts
12 required by law to be deducted and "debt due and owing"
13 means (i) a specified sum of money owed to the
14 municipality, the county, the Cook County Forest Preserve
15 District, the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan
16 Water Reclamation District, the Chicago Transit Authority,
17 or the housing authority for services, work, or goods,
18 after the period granted for payment has expired, or (ii)
19 a specified sum of money owed to the municipality, the
20 county, the Cook County Forest Preserve District, the
21 Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation
22 District, the Chicago Transit Authority, or the housing
23 authority pursuant to a court order or order of an
24 administrative hearing officer after the exhaustion of, or
25 the failure to exhaust, judicial review;

26 20. The board is encouraged to employ a sufficient

1 number of licensed school counselors to maintain a
2 student/counselor ratio of 250 to 1. Each counselor shall
3 spend at least 75% of his work time in direct contact with
4 students and shall maintain a record of such time;

5 21. To make available to students vocational and
6 career counseling and to establish 5 special career
7 counseling days for students and parents. On these days
8 representatives of local businesses and industries shall
9 be invited to the school campus and shall inform students
10 of career opportunities available to them in the various
11 businesses and industries. Special consideration shall be
12 given to counseling minority students as to career
13 opportunities available to them in various fields. For the
14 purposes of this paragraph, minority student means a
15 person who is any of the following:

16 (a) American Indian or Alaska Native (a person having
17 origins in any of the original peoples of North and South
18 America, including Central America, and who maintains
19 tribal affiliation or community attachment).

20 (b) Asian (a person having origins in any of the
21 original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the
22 Indian subcontinent, including, but not limited to,
23 Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan,
24 the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam).

25 (c) Black or African American (a person having origins
26 in any of the black racial groups of Africa).

1 (d) Hispanic or Latino (a person of Cuban, Mexican,
2 Puerto Rican, South or Central American, or other Spanish
3 culture or origin, regardless of race).

4 (e) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (a
5 person having origins in any of the original peoples of
6 Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands).

7 Counseling days shall not be in lieu of regular school
8 days;

9 22. To report to the State Board of Education the
10 annual student dropout rate and number of students who
11 graduate from, transfer from, or otherwise leave bilingual
12 programs;

13 23. Except as otherwise provided in the Abused and
14 Neglected Child Reporting Act or other applicable State or
15 federal law, to permit school officials to withhold, from
16 any person, information on the whereabouts of any child
17 removed from school premises when the child has been taken
18 into protective custody as a victim of suspected child
19 abuse. School officials shall direct such person to the
20 Department of Children and Family Services or to the local
21 law enforcement agency, if appropriate;

22 24. To develop a policy, based on the current state of
23 existing school facilities, projected enrollment, and
24 efficient utilization of available resources, for capital
25 improvement of schools and school buildings within the
26 district, addressing in that policy both the relative

1 priority for major repairs, renovations, and additions to
2 school facilities and the advisability or necessity of
3 building new school facilities or closing existing schools
4 to meet current or projected demographic patterns within
5 the district;

6 25. To make available to the students in every high
7 school attendance center the ability to take all courses
8 necessary to comply with the Board of Higher Education's
9 college entrance criteria effective in 1993;

10 26. To encourage mid-career changes into the teaching
11 profession, whereby qualified professionals become
12 licensed teachers, by allowing credit for professional
13 employment in related fields when determining point of
14 entry on the teacher pay scale;

15 27. To provide or contract out training programs for
16 administrative personnel and principals with revised or
17 expanded duties pursuant to this Code in order to ensure
18 they have the knowledge and skills to perform their
19 duties;

20 28. To establish a fund for the prioritized special
21 needs programs, and to allocate such funds and other lump
22 sum amounts to each attendance center in a manner
23 consistent with the provisions of part 4 of Section
24 34-2.3. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to
25 require any additional appropriations of State funds for
26 this purpose;

1 29. (Blank);

2 30. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or
3 any other law to the contrary, to contract with third
4 parties for services otherwise performed by employees,
5 including those in a bargaining unit, and to lay off
6 ~~layoff~~ those employees upon 14 days' ~~days~~ written notice
7 to the affected employees. Those contracts may be for a
8 period not to exceed 5 years and may be awarded on a
9 system-wide basis. The board may not operate more than 30
10 contract schools, provided that the board may operate an
11 additional 5 contract turnaround schools pursuant to item
12 (5.5) of subsection (d) of Section 34-8.3 of this Code,
13 and the governing bodies of contract schools are subject
14 to the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act;

15 31. To promulgate rules establishing procedures
16 governing the layoff or reduction in force of employees
17 and the recall of such employees, including, but not
18 limited to, criteria for such layoffs, reductions in force
19 or recall rights of such employees and the weight to be
20 given to any particular criterion. Such criteria shall
21 take into account factors, including, but not limited to,
22 qualifications, certifications, experience, performance
23 ratings or evaluations, and any other factors relating to
24 an employee's job performance;

25 32. To develop a policy to prevent nepotism in the
26 hiring of personnel or the selection of contractors;

1 33. (Blank); and

2 34. To establish a Labor Management Council to the
3 board comprised of representatives of the board, the chief
4 executive officer, and those labor organizations that are
5 the exclusive representatives of employees of the board
6 and to promulgate policies and procedures for the
7 operation of the Council.

8 The specifications of the powers herein granted are not to
9 be construed as exclusive, but the board shall also exercise
10 all other powers that may be requisite or proper for the
11 maintenance and the development of a public school system, not
12 inconsistent with the other provisions of this Article or
13 provisions of this Code which apply to all school districts.

14 In addition to the powers herein granted and authorized to
15 be exercised by the board, it shall be the duty of the board to
16 review or to direct independent reviews of special education
17 expenditures and services. The board shall file a report of
18 such review with the General Assembly on or before May 1, 1990.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-465, eff. 1-1-22; 102-558, eff. 8-20-21;
20 102-894, eff. 5-20-22; 103-8, eff. 1-1-24; revised 7-17-24.)