

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 2-3.173 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.173 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.173. Future Language Teachers Program.

8 (a) In this Section:

9 "English learner" means a child included in the definition
10 of "English learners" under Section 14C-2 of this Code.

11 "Program" means the Future Language Teachers Program
12 established under this Section.

13 "Qualified participant" means a high school graduate who
14 (i) at any one time during grades pre-kindergarten through 12
15 was identified as an English learner, (ii) can demonstrate
16 proficiency in a language other than English or is a recipient
17 of a State Seal of Biliteracy, and (iii) is a member of the
18 community in which the participating school district is
19 located. A "qualified participant" must be enrolled in an
20 educator preparation program approved by the State Board of
21 Education at a regionally accredited institution of higher
22 education in this State.

23 "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

1 (b) Beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, the State
2 Board shall establish and maintain the Future Language Teachers
3 Program to assist qualified participants in acquiring a
4 Professional Educator License with an endorsement in English as
5 a second language, bilingual education, English as a new
6 language, or any foreign language.

7 (c) Each participating school district shall partner with
8 an educator preparation program approved by the State Board at
9 a regionally accredited institution of higher education in this
10 State. Each qualified participant enrolled in the Program
11 through the school district must be enrolled at least part-time
12 each semester at that institution of higher education in its
13 educator preparation program and be working toward a
14 Professional Educator License with an endorsement in English as
15 a second language, bilingual education, English as a new
16 language, or any foreign language.

17 (d) A qualified participant shall no longer qualify for the
18 Program if at any time the participating school district or the
19 institution of higher education determines that the qualified
20 participant is no longer making substantial progress toward a
21 degree in an approved educator preparation program.

22 (e) Throughout each semester of participation in the
23 Program, the qualified participant must be employed by the
24 participating school district and working under the
25 supervision of a school district employee. Duties of the
26 qualified participant may include, but are not limited to (i)

1 working in cooperation with his or her supervisor under this
2 subsection (e) to create classroom curriculum and lesson plans
3 and (ii) working with and mentoring English learners on a
4 one-on-one basis.

5 Each participating school district may use appropriate
6 State, federal, or local revenue to employ the qualified
7 participant.

8 (f) At the end of each school year of the Program, each
9 participating school district shall submit data to the State
10 Board detailing all of the following:

11 (1) The number of qualified participants enrolled in
12 the Program.

13 (2) The costs associated with the Program.

14 (3) The duties assigned to each qualified participant
15 by his or her supervisor.

16 (4) The current status of each qualified participant in
17 his or her educator preparation program.

18 (5) The qualified participant's Illinois Educator
19 Identification Number, if available.

20 (6) Any other information requested by the State Board.

21 (g) Prior to the 2023-2024 school year, the State Board
22 shall electronically submit a report to the Clerk of the House
23 of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate detailing
24 the first 4 years of the program, including, but not limited
25 to, the following information:

26 (1) The participating school districts in the Program.

1 (2) The number of qualified participants enrolled in
2 the Program.

3 (3) The costs associated with the Program per school
4 district.

5 (4) A summary of the duties assigned to qualified
6 participants by school district supervisors.

7 (5) Any other information as determined by the State
8 Board.

9 (h) The State Board may establish and adopt any rules
10 necessary to implement this Section.

11 (i) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require a
12 school district to participate in the Program.

13 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
14 becoming law.