



101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1303

Introduced 2/7/2019, by Sen. Andy Manar

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.176 new

Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to create the Freshman Success pilot program. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the State Board must award grants to school districts to implement Freshman Success plans; specifies grant eligibility requirements. Provides that, on or before December 1, 2019 and on or before each December 1 thereafter, the State Board shall make grant applications available and issue a list of all school districts eligible to apply. Requires each grant applicant to describe its plan and how the grant funds will be allocated; provides for allowable grant uses. Provides that the State Board must review all submitted applications to determine if an applicant has developed a promising plan to increase on-track freshman rates and has demonstrated the leadership and capacity to implement its plan with the grant assistance. If so, provides that the State Board may award the applicant a grant of up to \$100,000 per qualifying high school in the school district. Effective immediately.

LRB101 07089 AXK 52126 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 WHEREAS, The freshman year of high school is a critically
3 important year for getting students started on the right foot
4 in high school; and

5 WHEREAS, Students who complete freshman year on track,
6 where they earn 6 credits and fail no more than one core
7 course, are 3 times more likely to graduate from high school;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Illinois is the birthplace of extensive research
10 on the value of focusing on keeping freshmen on track, building
11 from a 2008 report of the University of Chicago Consortium on
12 School Research; and

13 WHEREAS, Illinois' new accountability system incorporates
14 on-track freshman rates for high schools across the State; and

15 WHEREAS, This Act may be referred to as the Freshman
16 Success Act; therefore

17 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
18 **represented in the General Assembly:**

19 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section

1 2-3.176 as follows:

2 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.176 new)

3 Sec. 2-3.176. Freshman Success pilot program.

4 (a) In this Section, "qualifying high school" means a high
5 school that has a 5-year graduation rate and an on-track
6 freshman rate of 80% or less on its most recent school report
7 card.

8 (b) The State Board shall create a Freshman Success pilot
9 program. Subject to appropriation, the State Board must award
10 grants to school districts under this Section to implement
11 Freshman Success plans. To be eligible for a grant, a school
12 district must meet all of the following criteria:

13 (1) The district must be identified as a Tier 1 or Tier
14 2 Organizational Unit under Section 18-8.15.

15 (2) The district must have at least one qualifying high
16 school within the district.

17 (c) On or before December 1, 2019 and on or before each
18 December 1 thereafter, the State Board must make grant
19 applications available and issue a list of all school districts
20 eligible to apply. Each applicant must describe its Freshman
21 Success plan and how the grant funds will be allocated.
22 Allowable uses for grant funds include, but are not limited to,
23 all of the following:

24 (1) Hiring a dedicated staff member to support freshmen
25 students.

1 (2) Providing professional development to existing
2 staff members to integrate practices that improve freshman
3 attendance.

4 (3) Increasing tutoring or other support services for
5 freshmen students who are failing a core course.

6 (4) Providing in-school mentoring opportunities to
7 freshmen students to boost the number of students who have
8 a strong relationship with an adult in the school building.

9 (5) Any other practice that is likely to lead to
10 improved freshman success.

11 (d) The State Board must review all submitted applications
12 to determine if an applicant has developed a promising plan to
13 increase on-track freshman rates and has demonstrated the
14 leadership and capacity to implement its plan with the grant
15 assistance. If so, the State Board may award the applicant a
16 grant of up to \$100,000 per qualifying high school in the
17 school district.

18 (e) As a condition of receiving a grant under this Section,
19 an applicant must agree to produce and submit a report to the
20 State Board and the General Assembly that accounts for the
21 expenditure of the grant funds and the results of the school
22 district's effort to increase on-track freshman rates.

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.