

# SB1340



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

SB1340

Introduced 2/7/2019, by Sen. Jil Tracy

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

110 ILCS 148/25

Amends the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. Removes a provision requiring the State Superintendent of Education to limit each annual cohort of the Act's pilot program to (i) for the first 2 annual cohorts, no more than 12 school districts and (ii) for any subsequent annual cohort, no more than 15 school districts. Effective immediately.

LRB101 08010 AXK 53071 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

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 Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act is  
5 amended by changing Section 25 as follows:

6 (110 ILCS 148/25)

7 Sec. 25. Competency-based, high school graduation  
8 requirements pilot program eligibility and application  
9 process.

10 (a) The pilot program established under Section 20 of this  
11 Act shall be administered by the State Superintendent of  
12 Education in 2 phases: (i) an initial application and selection  
13 process phase, and (ii) a subsequent phase for full development  
14 and implementation of a detailed plan for a competency-based  
15 learning system for high school graduation requirements.

16 (b) For the initial phase under clause (i) of subsection  
17 (a) of this Section, the State Superintendent of Education  
18 shall develop and issue a pilot program application that  
19 requires:

20 (1) demonstration of commitment from the school  
21 district superintendent; the president of the school board  
22 of the district; teachers within the school district who  
23 will be involved with the pilot program implementation; a

1 community college partner; and a higher education  
2 institution other than a community college;

3 (2) an indication of which of the year and course  
4 graduation requirements set forth in Section 27-22 of the  
5 School Code the school district wishes to replace with a  
6 competency-based learning system;

7 (3) a general description of the school district's plan  
8 for implementing a competency-based learning system for  
9 high school graduation requirements, including how the  
10 plan addresses the requirements of Section 20 of this Act  
11 and this Section;

12 (4) the school district's prior professional  
13 development and stakeholder engagement efforts that will  
14 support its successful development and implementation of a  
15 competency-based learning system, including, without  
16 limitation, prior implementation of professional  
17 development systems for major district instructional  
18 initiatives; and

19 (5) identification of any waivers or modifications of  
20 State law or rules for implementation of the proposed plan.

21 The demonstration of commitment from teachers as required  
22 by paragraph (1) of this subsection (b) must include a  
23 description of how teachers have been engaged throughout the  
24 application development process. If the school district has an  
25 exclusive bargaining representative of its teachers and the  
26 president of the exclusive bargaining representative does not

1 submit a statement of commitment for the application, the  
2 school district must submit either a statement by the president  
3 of the position of the exclusive bargaining representative on  
4 the application or a description of the school district's good  
5 faith efforts to obtain such a statement.

6 (c) Subject to subsection (g) of this Section, the State  
7 Superintendent of Education shall select school districts  
8 meeting the requirements set forth in this Section to  
9 participate in the pilot program based on the quality of the  
10 proposed plan, the strength of the local commitments,  
11 including, without limitation, teachers within the school  
12 district who will be involved in the program's implementation  
13 and postsecondary institution partnerships, and demonstration  
14 of prior professional development and stakeholder engagement  
15 efforts that will support the proposed system's successful  
16 implementation. The State Superintendent of Education, in  
17 selecting the participating school districts, shall also  
18 consider the diversity of school district types and sizes, the  
19 diversity of geographic representation from across the State,  
20 and the diversity of plan approaches (such as approaches that  
21 involve one subject only, multiple subjects, and the types of  
22 subjects).

23 (d) School districts selected to participate in the pilot  
24 program shall receive technical assistance coordinated by the  
25 State Superintendent of Education to develop a full pilot  
26 program implementation plan. The State Superintendent of

1 Education shall have discretion to remove a school district  
2 from the pilot program during this period if the school  
3 district does not submit a full pilot program implementation  
4 plan that meets the State Superintendent of Education's  
5 specifications.

6 (e) School districts shall, as part of the development of  
7 their application and participation in the competency-based  
8 learning system pilot program, establish and maintain a  
9 standing planning and implementation committee that includes  
10 representation from administrators and teachers, including  
11 teachers who will be involved in the competency-based learning  
12 system's implementation. The teacher representatives shall be  
13 selected by teachers or, where applicable, the exclusive  
14 bargaining representative of its teachers, and the number of  
15 teacher representatives shall be at least equal to  
16 administrator representatives, unless otherwise agreed to by  
17 the teachers or, where applicable, the exclusive bargaining  
18 representative of its teachers. The standing planning and  
19 implementation committee shall develop reports that shall be  
20 included within the initial application, the full pilot program  
21 plan, and any subsequent annual submissions to the State  
22 Superintendent of Education as part of the assessment and  
23 evaluation of the program. The reports shall describe the  
24 members' assessment of the school district's plan or  
25 implementation, as applicable, of the school district's  
26 competency-based learning system and any recommendations for

1 modifications or improvements to the system. If the committee  
2 does not reach consensus on the report, the administrator  
3 members shall submit the report and the teacher members may  
4 provide a position statement that must be included with the  
5 report submitted to the State Superintendent of Education.

6 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the School Code  
7 or any other law of this State to the contrary, school  
8 districts participating in the pilot program may petition the  
9 State Superintendent of Education for a waiver or modification  
10 of the mandates of the School Code or of the administrative  
11 rules adopted by ISBE in order to support the implementation of  
12 the school district's proposed competency-based learning  
13 system. However, no waiver shall be granted under this  
14 subsection (f) relating to State assessments, accountability  
15 requirements, teacher tenure or seniority, teacher or  
16 principal evaluations, or learning standards or that removes  
17 legal protections or supports intended for the protection of  
18 children or a particular category of students, such as students  
19 with disabilities or English learners. Any waiver or  
20 modification of teacher educator licensure requirements to  
21 permit instruction by non-educators or educators without an  
22 appropriate license must ensure that an appropriately licensed  
23 teacher and the provider of instruction partner in order to  
24 verify the method for assessing competency of mastery and  
25 verify whether a student has demonstrated mastery. All requests  
26 must be jointly signed by the school district superintendent

1 and the president of the school board and must describe the  
2 position of teachers within the school district that will be  
3 involved in the competency-based learning system's  
4 implementation on the application. If the school district has  
5 an exclusive bargaining representative of its teachers and the  
6 president of the exclusive bargaining representative does not  
7 submit a statement of support for the application, the school  
8 district must submit either a statement by the president that  
9 describes the position of the exclusive bargaining  
10 representative on the application or a description of the  
11 school district's good faith efforts to obtain such a  
12 statement. The State Superintendent of Education shall approve  
13 a waiver or modification request meeting the requirements of  
14 this subsection (f) if the State Superintendent of Education  
15 determines the request is reasonably necessary to support the  
16 implementation of the school district's proposed  
17 competency-based learning system, and the request shall not  
18 diminish the overall support of teachers within the school  
19 district involved with the system's implementation as  
20 demonstrated in the school district's initial application to  
21 participate in the pilot program. An approved request shall  
22 take effect in accordance with the timeline set forth in the  
23 school district's application, and an approved waiver or  
24 modification shall remain in effect for so long as the school  
25 district participates in the pilot program established by this  
26 Act. The State Superintendent of Education's approval of a

1 school district plan for implementation of competency-based,  
2 high school graduation requirements shall serve as a waiver or  
3 modification of any conflicting requirements of Section 27-22  
4 of the School Code. School districts participating in the pilot  
5 program may additionally pursue waivers and modifications  
6 pursuant to Section 2-3.25g of the School Code.

7 (g) For purposes of this subsection (g), "annual cohort"  
8 means the group of school districts selected by the State  
9 Superintendent of Education to participate in the pilot program  
10 during an annual application and selection process. ~~The State  
11 Superintendent of Education shall limit each annual cohort of  
12 the pilot program as follows: the first 2 annual cohorts shall  
13 be limited to no more than 12 school districts, and any  
14 subsequent annual cohort shall be limited to no more than 15  
15 school districts.~~ A school district may submit only one  
16 application for each annual cohort of the pilot program. The  
17 application of a school district having a population exceeding  
18 500,000 inhabitants may not include more than 6 schools. The  
19 expansion of a school district's competency-based learning  
20 system to a new school or new subject area identified in  
21 Section 27-22 of the School Code shall require a new  
22 application by the school district.

23 School districts may collaboratively apply to participate  
24 in the pilot program. Notwithstanding any other provision of  
25 this subsection (g), the application of a collaborative of  
26 districts shall be counted as one district application in the



1 annual cohort selection process. In the application of a  
2 collaborative of districts, each district participating in the  
3 collaborative shall comply with the requirements outlined in  
4 subsection (b) of this Section as if applying as an individual  
5 district. The districts participating in the collaborative may  
6 establish and maintain a standing planning and implementation  
7 committee individually or collaboratively. If a collaborative  
8 of districts decides at a later date to participate as  
9 individual districts in the pilot program, the districts shall  
10 submit to the State Superintendent of Education a revised  
11 implementation plan that outlines the changes to their original  
12 plan and ~~the~~ individual district applications from these  
13 districts shall be considered as separate district  
14 applications, ~~and none of these districts may be counted as one~~  
15 ~~of the districts that are already part of the cohort~~  
16 ~~limitation.~~

17 (Source: P.A. 99-674, eff. 7-29-16; 100-599, eff. 6-29-18.)

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