

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 changing Section  
5 10-20.56 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.56)

7 Sec. 10-20.56. E-learning days.

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish and  
9 maintain, for implementation in school districts, a program  
10 for use of electronic-learning (e-learning) days, as described  
11 in this Section. School districts may utilize a program  
12 approved under this Section for use during remote learning  
13 days and blended remote learning days under Section 10-30 or  
14 34-18.66.

15 (b) The school board of a school district may, by  
16 resolution, adopt a research-based program or research-based  
17 programs for e-learning days district-wide that shall permit  
18 student instruction to be received electronically while  
19 students are not physically present in lieu of the district's  
20 scheduled emergency days as required by Section 10-19 of this  
21 Code or because a school was selected to be a polling place  
22 under Section 11-4.1 of the Election Code. The research-based  
23 program or programs may not exceed the minimum number of

1 emergency days in the approved school calendar and must be  
2 verified by the regional office of education or intermediate  
3 service center for the school district on or before September  
4 1st annually to ensure access for all students. The regional  
5 office of education or intermediate service center shall  
6 ensure that the specific needs of all students are met,  
7 including special education students and English learners, and  
8 that all mandates are still met using the proposed  
9 research-based program. The e-learning program may utilize the  
10 Internet, telephones, texts, chat rooms, or other similar  
11 means of electronic communication for instruction and  
12 interaction between teachers and students that meet the needs  
13 of all learners. The e-learning program shall address the  
14 school district's responsibility to ensure that all teachers  
15 and staff who may be involved in the provision of e-learning  
16 have access to any and all hardware and software that may be  
17 required for the program. If a proposed program does not  
18 address this responsibility, the school district must propose  
19 an alternate program.

20 (c) Before its adoption by a school board, the school  
21 board must hold a public hearing on a school district's  
22 initial proposal for an e-learning program or for renewal of  
23 such a program, at a regular or special meeting of the school  
24 board, in which the terms of the proposal must be  
25 substantially presented and an opportunity for allowing public  
26 comments must be provided. Notice of such public hearing must

1 be provided at least 10 days prior to the hearing by:

2 (1) publication in a newspaper of general circulation  
3 in the school district;

4 (2) written or electronic notice designed to reach the  
5 parents or guardians of all students enrolled in the  
6 school district; and

7 (3) written or electronic notice designed to reach any  
8 exclusive collective bargaining representatives of school  
9 district employees and all those employees not in a  
10 collective bargaining unit.

11 (d) The regional office of education or intermediate  
12 service center for the school district must timely verify that  
13 a proposal for an e-learning program has met the requirements  
14 specified in this Section and that the proposal contains  
15 provisions designed to reasonably and practicably accomplish  
16 the following:

17 (1) to ensure and verify at least 5 clock hours of  
18 instruction or school work, as required under Section  
19 10-19.05, for each student participating in an e-learning  
20 day;

21 (2) to ensure access from home or other appropriate  
22 remote facility for all students participating, including  
23 computers, the Internet, and other forms of electronic  
24 communication that must be utilized in the proposed  
25 program;

26 (2.5) to ensure that non-electronic materials are made

1 available to students participating in the program who do  
2 not have access to the required technology or to  
3 participating teachers or students who are prevented from  
4 accessing the required technology;

5 (3) to ensure appropriate learning opportunities for  
6 students with special needs;

7 (4) to monitor and verify each student's electronic  
8 participation;

9 (5) to address the extent to which student  
10 participation is within the student's control as to the  
11 time, pace, and means of learning;

12 (6) to provide effective notice to students and their  
13 parents or guardians of the use of particular days for  
14 e-learning;

15 (7) to provide staff and students with adequate  
16 training for e-learning days' participation;

17 (8) to ensure an opportunity for any collective  
18 bargaining negotiations with representatives of the school  
19 district's employees that would be legally required,  
20 including all classifications of school district employees  
21 who are represented by collective bargaining agreements  
22 and who would be affected in the event of an e-learning  
23 day;

24 (9) to review and revise the program as implemented to  
25 address difficulties confronted; and

26 (10) to ensure that the protocol regarding general

1           expectations and responsibilities of the program is  
2           communicated to teachers, staff, and students at least 30  
3           days prior to utilizing an e-learning day.

4           The school board's approval of a school district's initial  
5           e-learning program and renewal of the e-learning program shall  
6           be for a term of 3 years.

7           (e) The State Board of Education may adopt rules  
8           consistent with the provision of this Section.

9           (Source: P.A. 100-760, eff. 8-10-18; 101-12, eff. 7-1-19;  
10          101-643, eff. 6-18-20.)