



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB5024

Introduced 2/8/2024, by Rep. Joyce Mason

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 100/5-45.55 new
110 ILCS 28/15
110 ILCS 28/20
110 ILCS 28/25
110 ILCS 28/30
110 ILCS 28/35
110 ILCS 947/65.125 new

Amends the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act. Removes provisions concerning geographic regional hubs established by the Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, and member institutions. Removes references to the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development. In provisions concerning the membership of the advisory committee to the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity, provides that specified appointments made by the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development shall instead be made by the Department of Human Services. Provides that all appointed positions on the advisory committee shall have their term length chosen by agreement among the co-chairpersons of the advisory committee. Provides that the advisory committee shall meet at least twice a year (instead of quarterly). Makes changes regarding what information shall be reported. Amends the Higher Education Student Assistance Act. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission shall implement and administer an early childhood educator scholarship program, to be known as the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. Provides that under the Program, the Commission shall annually award scholarships to early childhood education students enrolled in the institutions of higher education participating in the Consortium. Provides for rulemaking and consultation. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act to provide for emergency rulemaking for the Program. Effective immediately.

LRB103 36139 RJT 66230 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 5. The Illinois Administrative Procedure Act is
5 amended by adding Section 5-45.55 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 100/5-45.55 new)

7 Sec. 5-45.55. Emergency rulemaking; Early Childhood Access
8 Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. To provide for the
9 expeditious and timely implementation of the Early Childhood
10 Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program under Section
11 65.125 of the Higher Education Student Assistance Act,
12 emergency rules implementing the Early Childhood Access
13 Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program may be adopted in
14 accordance with Section 5-45 by the Illinois Student
15 Assistance Commission. The adoption of emergency rules
16 authorized by Section 5-45 and this Section is deemed to be
17 necessary for the public interest, safety, and welfare. This
18 Section is repealed one year after the effective date of this
19 amendatory Act of the 103rd General Assembly.

20 Section 10. The Early Childhood Access Consortium for
21 Equity Act is amended by changing Sections 15, 20, 25, 30, and
22 35 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 28/15)

2 Sec. 15. Creation of Consortium; purpose; administrative
3 support.

4 (a) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
5 Community College Board shall create and establish the Early
6 Childhood Access Consortium for Equity.

7 (b) The purpose of the Consortium is to serve the needs of
8 the incumbent early childhood workforce and the employers of
9 early childhood educators and to advance racial equity while
10 meeting the needs of employers by streamlining, coordinating,
11 and improving the accessibility of degree completion pathways
12 for upskilling and the sustained expansion of educational
13 pipelines at Illinois institutions of higher education.

14 (c) The Board of Higher Education and the Illinois
15 Community College Board shall convene the member institutions
16 by July 1, 2021 or within 60 days after the effective date of
17 this amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly. The Board
18 of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board
19 shall provide administrative support for the start up and
20 operation of the Consortium until a permanent governance
21 structure is developed and implemented. ~~The Board of Higher
22 Education and the Illinois Community College Board shall work
23 with member institutions to establish geographic regional
24 hubs, including public universities and the proximate
25 community colleges responsible for serving each regional hub.~~

1 (Source: P.A. 102-174, eff. 7-28-21.)

2 (110 ILCS 28/20)

3 Sec. 20. Membership; functions.

4 (a) Membership in the Consortium shall include all public
5 universities and community colleges in this State that offer
6 early childhood programs. Membership by private,
7 not-for-profit universities is optional and conditional on the
8 acceptance of the terms adopted by the public members, the
9 related administrative rules, and the provisions of this Act.
10 For-profit institutions of higher education are not eligible
11 for membership in the Consortium. Participating institutions
12 must be accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and
13 entitled to offer Gateways Credentials.

14 (b) The members of the Consortium shall operate jointly
15 and in cooperation ~~through regional hubs~~ to provide
16 streamlined paths for students to attain associate degrees,
17 bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, certificates, and
18 Gateways Credentials and other licensure endorsements in early
19 childhood education. The priority shall be to focus on the
20 incumbent workforce, which includes working adults who require
21 programs of study that offer flexibility in the times courses
22 are offered, location, and format. The Consortium shall
23 cooperate in all of the following:

24 (1) Providing course offerings ~~within each regional~~
25 ~~hub~~ in online, hybrid, and in-person formats that are

1 available to any student enrolled in a member institution
2 ~~in that hub~~ for occasions in which a particular course is
3 not available at the student's home institution. In this
4 paragraph (1), "not available" may mean the course is not
5 offered during a term, at a time, or in a format that works
6 best for the student. Courses taken at any member
7 institution shall be accepted toward the student's degree
8 at any other member institution. Course offerings across
9 institutions ~~regional hubs~~ may also be provided by an
10 agreement between Consortium members. All course
11 registration shall take place in consultation with a
12 student's academic advisor.

13 (2) Shared responsibilities through the Consortium ~~and~~
14 ~~within~~ and across the State ~~regional hubs~~ to expand access
15 for students.

16 (3) Transfers in accordance with Section 130-10 of the
17 Transitions in Education Act.

18 (4) The development of standardized methods for
19 awarding credit for prior learning.

20 (5) The support necessary for student access,
21 persistence, and completion shall be provided by the home
22 institution, unless otherwise provided by agreement
23 between Consortium members.

24 (6) Admissions, financial arrangements, registration,
25 and advising services shall be functions of the home
26 institution but shall be honored across the Consortium.

1 (7) Member institutions working with their regional
2 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and early childhood
3 employer partners to determine demand throughout the
4 region.

5 (8) Data-sharing agreements.

6 (9) An agreement that students enrolled in associate
7 degree programs are encouraged to complete the associate
8 degree program prior to transferring to a bachelor's
9 degree program.

10 (10) Development of other shared agreements and terms
11 necessary to implement the Consortium and its
12 responsibilities.

13 By January 31, 2022, the Consortium shall decide how to
14 assign college credit for the incumbent workers who have a
15 Child Development Associate (CDA) credential and for future
16 workers obtaining a CDA.

17 (c) The Consortium may facilitate or implement the
18 following if deemed beneficial and feasible:

19 (1) the creation of an open education resource
20 library;

21 (2) support and training for program coaches and
22 cross-institutional navigators; and

23 (3) support for the development, implementation, and
24 participation in a statewide registry system through the
25 Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral
26 Agencies (INCCRRA) to provide tracking and data

1 capabilities for students across the system as they attain
2 competency through coursework.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-174, eff. 7-28-21.)

4 (110 ILCS 28/25)

5 Sec. 25. Advisory committee; membership.

6 (a) The Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community
7 College Board, the State Board of Education, and the
8 Department of Human Services, ~~and the Governor's Office of~~
9 ~~Early Childhood Development~~ shall jointly convene a Consortium
10 advisory committee to provide guidance on the operation of the
11 Consortium.

12 (b) Membership on the advisory committee shall be
13 comprised of employers and experts appointed by the Board of
14 Higher Education, the Illinois Community College Board, the
15 Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of Early~~
16 ~~Childhood Development~~, and the State Board of Education.
17 Membership shall also include all of the following members:

18 (1) An employer from a community-based child care
19 provider, appointed by the Department of Human Services
20 ~~Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development~~.

21 (2) An employer from a for-profit child care provider,
22 appointed by the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's~~
23 ~~Office of Early Childhood Development~~.

24 (3) An employer from a nonprofit child care provider,
25 appointed by the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's~~

1 ~~Office of Early Childhood Development.~~

2 (4) A provider of family child care, appointed by the
3 Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of Early~~
4 ~~Childhood Development.~~

5 (5) An employer located in southern Illinois,
6 appointed by the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's~~
7 ~~Office of Early Childhood Development.~~

8 (6) An employer located in central Illinois, appointed
9 by the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of~~
10 ~~Early Childhood Development.~~

11 (7) At least one member who represents an urban school
12 district, appointed by the State Board of Education.

13 (8) At least one member who represents a suburban
14 school district, appointed by the State Board of
15 Education.

16 (9) At least one member who represents a rural school
17 district, appointed by the State Board of Education.

18 (10) At least one member who represents a school
19 district in a city with a population of 500,000 or more,
20 appointed by the State Board of Education.

21 (11) Two early childhood advocates with statewide
22 expertise in early childhood workforce issues, appointed
23 by the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of~~
24 ~~Early Childhood Development.~~

25 (12) The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the
26 Minority Spokesperson or a designee of the Senate

1 Committee on Higher Education.

2 (13) The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the
3 Minority Spokesperson or a designee of the House Committee
4 on Higher Education.

5 (14) One member representing the Illinois Community
6 College Board, who shall serve as co-chairperson,
7 appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

8 (15) One member representing the Board of Higher
9 Education, who shall serve as co-chairperson, appointed by
10 the Board of Higher Education.

11 (16) One member representing the Illinois Student
12 Assistance Commission, appointed by the Board of Higher
13 Education.

14 (17) One member representing the State Board of
15 Education, who shall serve as co-chairperson, appointed by
16 the State Board of Education.

17 (18) (Blank). ~~One member representing the Governor's~~
18 ~~Office of Early Childhood Development, who shall serve as~~
19 ~~co chairperson, appointed by the Governor's Office of~~
20 ~~Early Childhood Development.~~

21 (19) One member representing the Department of Human
22 Services, who shall serve as co-chairperson, appointed by
23 the Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of~~
24 ~~Early Childhood Development.~~

25 (20) One member representing INCCRRA, appointed by the
26 Department of Human Services ~~Governor's Office of Early~~

1 ~~Childhood Development.~~

2 (21) One member representing the Department of
3 Children and Family Services, appointed by the Department
4 of Human Services with input from the Department of
5 Children and Family Services ~~Governor's Office of Early~~
6 ~~Childhood Development.~~

7 (22) One member representing an organization that
8 advocates on behalf of community college trustees,
9 appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

10 (23) One member of a union representing child care and
11 early childhood providers, appointed by the Department of
12 Human Services ~~Governor's Office of Early Childhood~~
13 ~~Development.~~

14 (24) Two members of unions representing higher
15 education faculty, appointed by the Board of Higher
16 Education.

17 (25) A representative from the College of Education of
18 an urban public university, appointed by the Board of
19 Higher Education.

20 (26) A representative from the College of Education of
21 a suburban public university, appointed by the Board of
22 Higher Education.

23 (27) A representative from the College of Education of
24 a rural public university, appointed by the Board of
25 Higher Education.

26 (28) A representative from the College of Education of

1 a private university, appointed by the Board of Higher
2 Education.

3 (29) A representative of an urban community college,
4 appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

5 (30) A representative of a suburban community college,
6 appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

7 (31) A representative of rural community college,
8 appointed by the Illinois Community College Board.

9 All appointed positions on the advisory committee shall
10 have their term length chosen by agreement among the
11 co-chairpersons of the advisory committee.

12 (c) The advisory committee shall meet at least twice a
13 year ~~quarterly~~. The committee meetings shall be open to the
14 public in accordance with the provisions of the Open Meetings
15 Act.

16 (Source: P.A. 102-174, eff. 7-28-21.)

17 (110 ILCS 28/30)

18 Sec. 30. Reporting. The Consortium shall report to the
19 General Assembly, to the Senate and House Committees with
20 oversight over higher education, to the Governor, and to the
21 advisory committee on the progress made by the Consortium. A
22 report must include, but is not limited to, all of the
23 following information:

24 (1) Student enrollment numbers for the fall and spring
25 terms or semesters, retention rates, persistence in

1 relevant associate, baccalaureate, and credential
2 programs, including demographic data that is disaggregated
3 by race, ethnicity, and federal Pell Grant status,
4 reported annually ~~twice per year~~. Completion numbers and
5 rates, employer type, and years worked shall be reported
6 annually.

7 (2) For students enrolled in early childhood programs,
8 average assessed tuition, average ~~Tuition rates charged~~
9 ~~and net price, number of students receiving student loans,~~
10 and average loan amount ~~prices paid, reported both as~~
11 ~~including and excluding student loans, by enrolled members~~
12 ~~of the incumbent workforce,~~ reported annually.

13 (3) Outreach plans to recruit and enroll incumbent
14 workforce members, reported annually ~~twice per year~~.

15 (4) Participation of the incumbent workforce in
16 outreach programs, which may include participation in an
17 informational session, social media engagement, or other
18 activities, reported annually ~~twice per year~~.

19 (5) Student academic and holistic support plans to
20 help the enrolled incumbent workforce persist in their
21 education, reported annually.

22 (6) Evidence of engagement and responsiveness to the
23 needs of employer partners, reported annually.

24 (7) The Consortium budget including the use of federal
25 funds, reported annually.

26 (8) Member contributions, including financial,

1 physical, or in-kind contributions, provided to the
2 Consortium, reported annually.

3 (Source: P.A. 102-174, eff. 7-28-21.)

4 (110 ILCS 28/35)

5 Sec. 35. Goals and metrics.

6 (a) By July 1, 2021 or within 60 days after July 28, 2021
7 (the effective date of Public Act 102-174) ~~this amendatory Act~~
8 ~~of the 102nd General Assembly~~, the Board of Higher Education's
9 Strategic Plan Educator Workforce subgroup on the early
10 childhood workforce must set goals for the Consortium for the
11 enrollment, persistence, and completion of members of the
12 incumbent workforce in associate, bachelor's, and master's
13 degree programs, Gateways Credentials in Level 2, 3, or 4, and
14 Professional Educator Licensure by September 30, 2024. The
15 goals set for the Consortium must be data informed and include
16 targets for annual enrollment and persistence.

17 (b) Data from the Gateways Registry, March 2020, indicates
18 that there are 7,670 individuals with an associate degree who
19 would benefit from progressing to a baccalaureate degree and
20 20,467 individuals with a high school diploma or some college
21 who would benefit from progressing to an associate degree. If
22 the goals cannot be set in accordance with subsection (a), the
23 goal for the Consortium shall be that by September 30, 2024,
24 20% of the individuals described in this subsection (b) who do
25 not have a degree will have enrolled and be persisting toward

1 or have attained a Gateways Credential in Level 2, 3, or 4 or
2 an associate degree and, of the individuals who have an
3 associate degree, will be enrolled and persisting toward or
4 have attained a baccalaureate degree or will be persisting
5 toward or have attained a Professional Educator License.

6 (c) Student financial aid, including incentives and
7 stipends, data-sharing, and professional statewide engagement
8 and marketing campaign and recruitment efforts are critical to
9 the Consortium's ability to quickly attract and enroll
10 students into these programs. Navigators, mentors, and
11 advisors are critical for persistence and completion. If
12 federal funds are not appropriated for these purposes and the
13 other purposes of this Section, the Board of Higher Education,
14 the Illinois Community College Board, the State Board of
15 Education, and the Department of Human Services, ~~and the~~
16 ~~Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development,~~ in
17 consultation with the advisory committee, shall adjust the
18 initial target metrics appropriately by adopting challenging
19 goals that may be attainable with less public investment.

20 (d) The Board of Higher Education, the Illinois Community
21 College Board, the State Board of Education, and the
22 Department of Human Services, ~~and the Governor's Office of~~
23 ~~Early Childhood Development,~~ in consultation with the advisory
24 committee, shall determine new metrics and goals for the
25 Consortium as they relate to the remaining and future early
26 childhood workforce, to be instituted after the close of the

1 2024-2025 academic year and going forward. Metrics must take
2 into consideration that the pipeline depends on sustained,
3 increased student enrollment and completion rates at the
4 associate degree level if this State aims to continue with
5 sustained, increased student enrollment and completion at the
6 bachelor's degree level.

7 (Source: P.A. 102-174, eff. 7-28-21.)

8 Section 15. The Higher Education Student Assistance Act is
9 amended by adding Section 65.125 as follows:

10 (110 ILCS 947/65.125 new)

11 Sec. 65.125. Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity
12 Scholarship Program.

13 (a) As used in this Section, "incumbent workforce" has the
14 meaning ascribed to that term in the Early Childhood Access
15 Consortium for Equity Act.

16 (b) Subject to appropriation, the Commission shall
17 implement and administer an early childhood educator
18 scholarship program, to be known as the Early Childhood Access
19 Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program. Under the Program,
20 the Commission shall annually award scholarships to early
21 childhood education students enrolled in institutions of
22 higher education participating in the Early Childhood Access
23 Consortium for Equity under the Early Childhood Access
24 Consortium for Equity Act, upon application to the Commission.

1 (c) The Commission shall determine, by rule, the
2 scholarship eligibility criteria, with preference given to
3 members of the incumbent workforce, the application process,
4 the amount of scholarship assistance awarded to a recipient,
5 and the manner in which scholarships are issued and utilized.
6 To ensure alignment with Consortium goals and changing
7 workforce needs, the Commission shall consult with the Board
8 of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board in
9 establishing and, as needed, updating the Program's
10 parameters.

11 (d) The Commission may adopt any rules necessary to
12 implement and administer the Program.

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