

SB2374



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2374

Introduced 2/10/2023, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.196 new

Amends the School Code. Provides that, subject to appropriation, the State Board of Education shall establish a competitive grant program to support the development or enhancement of computer science programs in the K-12 schools. Provides that eligible entities are regional offices of education, intermediate service centers, State higher education institutions, schools designated as laboratory schools, and school districts. Provides that approved entities shall be responsible for ensuring appropriate facilities are available and educators are appropriately trained on the use of any technologies or devices acquired for the purposes of the grant. Sets forth requirements to use the grant, renewal provisions, and rulemaking.

LRB103 28096 RJT 54475 b

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 School Code is amended by adding Section
5 2-3.196 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.196 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.196. Computer Science Equity Grant Program.

8 (a) Subject to appropriation, the State Board shall
9 establish a competitive grant program to support the
10 development or enhancement of computer science programs in the
11 K-12 schools. Eligible entities are regional offices of
12 education, intermediate service centers, State higher
13 education institutions, schools designated as laboratory
14 schools, and school districts. Approved entities shall be
15 responsible for ensuring that appropriate facilities are
16 available and educators are appropriately trained on the use
17 of any technologies or devices acquired for the purposes of
18 the grant.

19 (b) Computer Science Equity Grant Program funds shall be
20 used in the following manner consistent with application
21 requirements established by the State Board of Education as
22 provided in this Article:

23 (1) to expand learning opportunities in grades K-12 to

1 ensure that all students have access to computer science
2 coursework that is aligned to rigorous State standards and
3 emerging labor market needs;

4 (2) to train and retrain teachers of grades K-12 to be
5 more proficient in the teaching of computer science by
6 providing professional development opportunities;

7 (3) to supply classrooms with materials and equipment
8 related to the teaching and learning of computer science;
9 and

10 (4) to more effectively recruit and better serve K-12
11 learners who are underrepresented in the computer science
12 labor market for enrollment in computer science
13 coursework.

14 (c) Computer Science Equity Grant Program funds shall be
15 made available to each eligible entity upon completion of an
16 application process that is consistent with rules established
17 by the State Board of Education. The application shall include
18 the planned use of the funds; identification of need for the
19 funds that is supported by local, regional, and state data; a
20 plan for long-term sustainability; and a long-term plan for
21 continuous improvement.

22 (d) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules as may
23 be necessary to implement the provision of this Article,
24 including, but not limited to, the identification of
25 additional prioritization areas for each competitive grant
26 application cycle that are within the scope of the authorized

1 uses. Priority consideration for all applications will be
2 given for proposals that intend to serve a majority of
3 learners or teachers with gender or racial/ethnic identities
4 that are underrepresented in the computer science labor
5 market.

6 (e) Up to 2 renewals of the grant will be allowed,
7 providing the entity awarded satisfactorily completes
8 programmatic reporting and meets program objectives
9 commensurate with application requirements set forth by the
10 State Board of Education.

11 (f) Grants under the Computer Science Equity Grant Program
12 and funding levels for satisfactory applications may be
13 prorated according to the amount appropriated.