

1 AN ACT concerning schools.

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  
5 Section 2-3.25d as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.25d) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.25d)  
7 Sec. 2-3.25d. Academic watch list.

8 (a) Those schools that are not meeting the standards of  
9 academic performance measured by the State assessment of  
10 student performance as specified by the State Board of  
11 Education may be placed on an academic watch list established  
12 by the State Superintendent of Education after serving for 2  
13 years on the State Board of Education Early Academic Warning  
14 List and shall be subject to an on-site visitation to  
15 determine whether extenuating circumstances exist as to why a  
16 school or schools should not be placed on an academic watch  
17 list by the State Superintendent of Education.

18 A school district that has one or more schools on the  
19 academic watch list shall submit a revised School Improvement  
20 Plan or amendments thereto setting forth the district's  
21 expectations for removing each school in the district from  
22 the academic watch list and for improving student performance  
23 in that school. Districts operating under Article 34 of the  
24 School Code may submit the School Improvement Plan required  
25 under Section 34-2.4. If any district submits a School  
26 Improvement Plan which exceeds 2 years in duration, the Plan  
27 shall contain provisions for evaluation and determination as  
28 to the improvement of student performance or school  
29 improvement after no later than 2 years. The revised School  
30 Improvement Plan or amendments thereto shall be developed in  
31 consultation with the staff of the affected school and must

1 be approved by the local board of education and the school's  
 2 local school council for districts operating under Article 34  
 3 of the School Code. Revised School Improvement Plans must be  
 4 submitted for approval to the State Superintendent of  
 5 Education pursuant to rules and regulations promulgated by  
 6 the State Board of Education. The revised School Improvement  
 7 Plan shall address specific, measurable outcomes for  
 8 improving student performance so that such performance equals  
 9 or exceeds standards set for the school by the State Board of  
 10 Education.

11 A school or schools shall remain on the academic watch  
 12 list for at least one full academic year. During each  
 13 academic year for which a school is on the academic watch  
 14 list it shall continue to be evaluated and assessed by the  
 15 State Board of Education as to whether it is meeting outcomes  
 16 identified in its revised School Improvement Plan.

17 The provisions of this Section are subject to the  
 18 provisions of Section 2-3.25k.

19 (b) Subject to appropriation, the State Board of  
 20 Education shall implement and administer a grant program that  
 21 provides 2-year grants to school districts on the academic  
 22 watch list and other school districts that have the lowest  
 23 achieving students, as determined by the State Board of  
 24 Education, to be used to improve student achievement. In  
 25 order to receive a grant under this program, a school  
 26 district must establish an accountability program. The  
 27 accountability program must involve the use of statewide  
 28 testing standards and local evaluation measures. A grant  
 29 shall be automatically renewed when achievement goals are  
 30 met. The Board may adopt any rules necessary to implement  
 31 and administer this grant program.

32 (Source: P.A. 89-398, eff. 8-20-95; 89-698, eff. 1-14-97.)

33 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon

1 becoming law.