SB2594

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LRB09617075MJR32396b

96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2009 and 2010

SB2594

Introduced 1/21/2010, by Sen. Kimberly A. Lightford - James T. Meeks - Don Harmon - Deanna Demuzio - Pamela J. Althoff

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/2-3.71   from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71

Amends the School Code. Deletes language providing that before July 1, 2006 and after June 30, 2010, the State Board of Education shall provide the primary source of funding through appropriations for the grants for preschool educational program and the funds shall be distributed for the benefit of children who because of their home and community environment are subject to such language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages that they have been determined as a result of screening procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Deletes language that provides that screening procedures shall be based on criteria established by the State Board of Education. Removes the date restrictions of July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2010 on the requirement that the State Board of Education shall provide the primary source of funding through appropriations for the program. Effective immediately.

LRB096 17075 MJR 32396 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 changing Section

5   2-3.71 as follows:

6   (105 ILCS 5/2-3.71) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.71)

7   Sec. 2-3.71. Grants for preschool educational programs.

8   (a) Preschool program.

9   (1) The State Board of Education shall implement and

10   administer a grant program under the provisions of this

11   subsection which shall consist of grants to public school

12   districts and other eligible entities, as defined by the

13   State Board of Education, to conduct voluntary preschool

14   educational programs for children ages 3 to 5 which include

15   a parent education component. A public school district

16   which receives grants under this subsection may

17   subcontract with other entities that are eligible to

18   conduct a preschool educational program. These grants must

19   be used to supplement, not supplant, funds received from

20   any other source.

21   (2) (Blank).

22   (3) Any teacher of preschool children in the program

23   authorized by this subsection shall hold an early childhood

1   teaching certificate.

2   (4) (Blank) ~~This paragraph (4) applies before July 1,~~

3   ~~2006 and after June 30, 2010. The State Board of Education~~

4   ~~shall   provide   the   primary   source   of   funding   through~~

5   ~~appropriations   for   the   program.   Such   funds   shall   be~~

6   ~~distributed   for   the   benefit   of   children   who   because   of~~

7   ~~their   home   and   community   environment   are   subject   to   such~~

8   ~~language,   cultural,   economic   and   like   disadvantages   that~~

9   ~~they   have   been   determined   as   a   result   of   screening~~

10   ~~procedures   to   be   at   risk   of   academic   failure.   Such~~

11   ~~screening   procedures   shall   be   based   on   criteria~~

12   ~~established by the State Board of Education~~.

13   (4.5) ~~This paragraph (4.5) applies from July 1, 2006~~

14   ~~through June 30, 2010.~~ The State Board of Education shall

15   provide   the   primary   source   of   funding   through

16   appropriations   for   the   program.   Such   funds   shall   be

17   distributed   to   achieve   a   goal   of   "Preschool   for   All

18   Children"   for   the   benefit   of   all   children   whose   families

19   choose   to   participate   in   the   program.   Based   on   available

20   appropriations,   newly   funded   programs   shall   be   selected

21   through   a   process   giving   first   priority   to   qualified

22   programs   serving   primarily   at-risk   children   and   second

23   priority   to   qualified   programs   serving   primarily   children

24   with   a   family   income   of   less   than   4   times   the   poverty

25   guidelines   updated   periodically   in   the   Federal   Register   by

26   the   U.S.   Department   of   Health   and   Human   Services   under   the

1   authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2). For purposes of this

2   paragraph (4.5), at-risk children are those who because of

3   their home and community environment are subject to such

4   language, cultural, economic and like disadvantages to

5   cause them to have been determined as a result of screening

6   procedures to be at risk of academic failure. Such

7   screening procedures shall be based on criteria

8   established by the State Board of Education.

9   Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph (4.5),

10   grantees under the program must enter into a memorandum of

11   understanding with the appropriate local Head Start

12   agency. This memorandum must be entered into no later than

13   3 months after the award of a grantee's grant under the

14   program, except that, in the case of the 2009-2010 program

15   year, the memorandum must be entered into no later than the

16   deadline set by the State Board of Education for

17   applications to participate in the program in fiscal year

18   2011, and must address collaboration between the grantee's

19   program and the local Head Start agency on certain issues,

20   which shall include without limitation the following:

21   (A) educational activities, curricular objectives,

22   and instruction;

23   (B) public information dissemination and access to

24   programs for families contacting programs;

25   (C) service areas;

26   (D) selection priorities for eligible children to

1   be served by programs;

2   (E) maximizing the impact of federal and State

3   funding to benefit young children;

4   (F) staff training, including opportunities for

5   joint staff training;

6   (G) technical assistance;

7   (H) communication and parent outreach for smooth

8   transitions to kindergarten;

9   (I) provision   and   use   of   facilities,

10   transportation, and other program elements;

11   (J) facilitating each program's fulfillment of its

12   statutory and regulatory requirements;

13   (K) improving local planning and collaboration;

14   and

15   (L) providing comprehensive services for the

16   neediest Illinois children and families.

17   If the appropriate local Head Start agency is unable or

18   unwilling to enter into a memorandum of understanding as

19   required under this paragraph (4.5), the memorandum of

20   understanding requirement shall not apply and the grantee

21   under the program must notify the State Board of Education

22   in writing of the Head Start agency's inability or

23   unwillingness. The State Board of Education shall compile

24   all such written notices and make them available to the

25   public.

26   (5) The State Board of Education shall develop and

1   provide evaluation tools, including tests, that school
2   districts and other eligible entities may use to evaluate
3   children for school readiness prior to age 5. The State
4   Board of Education shall require school districts and other
5   eligible entities to obtain consent from the parents or
6   guardians of children before any evaluations are
7   conducted. The State Board of Education shall encourage
8   local school districts and other eligible entities to
9   evaluate the population of preschool children in their
10   communities and provide preschool programs, pursuant to
11   this subsection, where appropriate.

12   (6) The State Board of Education shall report to the
13   General Assembly by November 1, 2010 and every 3 years
14   thereafter on the results and progress of students who were
15   enrolled in preschool educational programs, including an
16   assessment of which programs have been most successful in
17   promoting academic excellence and alleviating academic
18   failure. The State Board of Education shall assess the
19   academic progress of all students who have been enrolled in
20   preschool educational programs.

21   On or before November 1 of each fiscal year in which
22   the General Assembly provides funding for new programs
23   under paragraph (4.5) of this Section, the State Board of
24   Education shall report to the General Assembly on what
25   percentage of new funding was provided to programs serving
26   primarily at-risk children, what percentage of new funding

1   was provided to programs serving primarily children with a

2   family income of less than 4 times the federal poverty

3   level, and what percentage of new funding was provided to

4   other programs.

5   (b) (Blank).

6 (Source: P.A. 95-724, eff. 6-30-08; 96-119, eff. 8-4-09.)

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

8 becoming law.