

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 3-15.14 and by adding Sections 3-15.14a and 17-1.1 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/3-15.14) (from Ch. 122, par. 3-15.14)

7 Sec. 3-15.14. Cooperative Educational and Operational
8 Programs. To administer and direct a cooperative or joint
9 educational or operational program or project when 2 or more
10 districts request and authorize him or her to provide and
11 administer these services. Each regional superintendent of
12 schools is encouraged to offer school districts the opportunity
13 to share in joint educational or operational programs and to
14 urge school districts to participate in such programs when the
15 school district determines that such participation is fiscally
16 prudent. The regional superintendent of schools ~~He~~ may provide
17 and contract for the staff, space, necessary materials,
18 supplies, books and apparatus for such agreements. The school
19 boards of the respective districts shall pay to the regional
20 superintendent the pro rata share of the expenses of the
21 operation of such programs, and the regional superintendent
22 shall use such funds in payment of such operational expenses.
23 The regional superintendent shall collect and remit the

1 required pension contributions from the participating
2 districts if the board of control of the program participates
3 in Article 7 of the Illinois Pension Code.

4 A board of control composed of one member from each
5 cooperating district and one member from the office of the
6 regional superintendent will set policy for the cooperative.
7 The agreement establishing the cooperative may provide that the
8 cooperative shall act as its own administrative district and
9 shall be an entity separate and apart from the Educational
10 Service Region.

11 Each regional superintendent that is the administrator of a
12 joint agreement shall cause an annual financial statement to be
13 submitted on forms prescribed by the State Board of Education
14 exhibiting the financial condition of the program established
15 pursuant to the joint agreement for the fiscal year ending on
16 the immediately preceding June 30.

17 The regional superintendent may also administer, direct
18 and account for educational programs of single or multi-county
19 educational service region, or of multi-regional design which
20 are sponsored and financed by State or federal educational
21 agencies, or by both such agencies. In cases where funding for
22 any such approved program is delayed, the regional
23 superintendent may borrow the funds required to begin operation
24 of the program in accordance with the terms of the grant; and
25 the principal amount so borrowed, together with the interest
26 due thereon, shall be paid from the grant moneys when received.

1 (Source: P.A. 83-815; 86-1332.)

2 (105 ILCS 5/3-15.14a new)

3 Sec. 3-15.14a. Shared services. The regional
4 superintendent of schools may, at the request of a school
5 district, present to the school district possible services and
6 functions that multiple schools may share or consolidate. Such
7 services and functions may include, but are not limited to,
8 bidding and purchasing, office functions such as payroll and
9 accounting, information technology, professional development,
10 grant writing, food service management, or administrative
11 positions. Regional superintendents of schools may share best
12 financial practices with school districts that are exploring
13 new methods to become more financially efficient.

14 (105 ILCS 5/17-1.1 new)

15 Sec. 17-1.1. Shared service reporting and fiscal
16 efficiency.

17 (a) Annually, each school district shall complete a report
18 developed by the State Board of Education, to accompany the
19 annual financial report and to be published on the State Board
20 of Education's Internet website, that summarizes district
21 attempts to improve fiscal efficiency through shared services
22 or outsourcing in the prior fiscal year. The report must be
23 primarily in checklist form and approximately one page in
24 length. It shall include, but shall not be limited to, the

1 incidence of the following shared service options: insurance;
2 employee benefits; transportation; personnel recruitment;
3 shared personnel; technology services; energy purchasing;
4 supply and equipment purchasing; food services; legal
5 services; investment pools; special education cooperatives,
6 vocational cooperatives, and other shared educational
7 programs; curriculum planning; professional development;
8 custodial services; maintenance services; grounds maintenance
9 services; food services; grant writing; and science,
10 technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) program
11 offerings. The report shall also include a list of potential
12 shared services or outsourcing the district may consider or
13 investigate for the next fiscal year and any anticipated
14 barriers to implementation. This report must be approved by the
15 school board and published on the Internet website of the
16 school district, if any.

17 (b) Based on data supplied by school districts through the
18 annual financial report, regional superintendents of schools
19 shall publish annually a regional report summarizing district
20 attempts to improve fiscal efficiency through shared services
21 or outsourcing within the educational service region. This
22 report shall include a list of all joint purchasing
23 initiatives, joint agreements between districts, attempts to
24 reduce or eliminate duplication of services and duplicative
25 expenditures, and identification of any overlapping regional
26 service delivery systems.

1 (c) For school districts required to develop and submit to
2 the State Board of Education a deficit reduction plan under
3 Section 17-1 of this Code, the regional superintendent of
4 schools and the school district shall jointly prepare a shared
5 services and outsourcing plan that considers actions that may
6 improve the district's fiscal efficiency and how future savings
7 associated with shared services or outsourcing are to be
8 utilized.