

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 14-7.02 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/14-7.02) (from Ch. 122, par. 14-7.02)

7 Sec. 14-7.02. Children attending private schools, public  
8 out-of-state schools, public school residential facilities or  
9 private special education facilities. The General Assembly  
10 recognizes that non-public schools or special education  
11 facilities provide an important service in the educational  
12 system in Illinois.

13 If because of his or her disability the special education  
14 program of a district is unable to meet the needs of a child  
15 and the child attends a non-public school or special education  
16 facility, a public out-of-state school or a special education  
17 facility owned and operated by a county government unit that  
18 provides special educational services required by the child and  
19 is in compliance with the appropriate rules and regulations of  
20 the State Superintendent of Education, the school district in  
21 which the child is a resident shall pay the actual cost of  
22 tuition for special education and related services provided  
23 during the regular school term and during the summer school

1 term if the child's educational needs so require, excluding  
2 room, board and transportation costs charged the child by that  
3 non-public school or special education facility, public  
4 out-of-state school or county special education facility, or  
5 \$4,500 per year, whichever is less, and shall provide him any  
6 necessary transportation. "Nonpublic special education  
7 facility" shall include a residential facility, within or  
8 without the State of Illinois, which provides special education  
9 and related services to meet the needs of the child by  
10 utilizing private schools or public schools, whether located on  
11 the site or off the site of the residential facility.

12 The State Board of Education shall promulgate rules and  
13 regulations for determining when placement in a private special  
14 education facility is appropriate. Such rules and regulations  
15 shall take into account the various types of services needed by  
16 a child and the availability of such services to the particular  
17 child in the public school. In developing these rules and  
18 regulations the State Board of Education shall consult with the  
19 Advisory Council on Education of Children with Disabilities and  
20 hold public hearings to secure recommendations from parents,  
21 school personnel, and others concerned about this matter.

22 The State Board of Education shall also promulgate rules  
23 and regulations for transportation to and from a residential  
24 school. Transportation to and from home to a residential school  
25 more than once each school term shall be subject to prior  
26 approval by the State Superintendent in accordance with the

1 rules and regulations of the State Board.

2 A school district making tuition payments pursuant to this  
3 Section is eligible for reimbursement from the State for the  
4 amount of such payments actually made in excess of the district  
5 per capita tuition charge for students not receiving special  
6 education services. Such reimbursement shall be approved in  
7 accordance with Section 14-12.01 and each district shall file  
8 its claims, computed in accordance with rules prescribed by the  
9 State Board of Education, on forms prescribed by the State  
10 Superintendent of Education. Data used as a basis of  
11 reimbursement claims shall be for the preceding regular school  
12 term and summer school term. Each school district shall  
13 transmit its claims to the State Board of Education on or  
14 before August 15. The State Board of Education, before  
15 approving any such claims, shall determine their accuracy and  
16 whether they are based upon services and facilities provided  
17 under approved programs. Upon approval the State Board shall  
18 cause vouchers to be prepared showing the amount due for  
19 payment of reimbursement claims to school districts, for  
20 transmittal to the State Comptroller on the 30th day of  
21 September, December, and March, respectively, and the final  
22 voucher, no later than June 20. If the money appropriated by  
23 the General Assembly for such purpose for any year is  
24 insufficient, it shall be apportioned on the basis of the  
25 claims approved.

26 No child shall be placed in a special education program

1 pursuant to this Section if the tuition cost for special  
2 education and related services increases more than 10 percent  
3 over the tuition cost for the previous school year or exceeds  
4 \$4,500 per year unless such costs have been approved by the  
5 Illinois Purchased Care Review Board. The Illinois Purchased  
6 Care Review Board shall consist of the following persons, or  
7 their designees: the Directors of Children and Family Services,  
8 Public Health, Public Aid, and the Governor's Office of  
9 Management and Budget; the Secretary of Human Services; the  
10 State Superintendent of Education; and such other persons as  
11 the Governor may designate. The Review Board shall establish  
12 rules and regulations for its determination of allowable costs  
13 and payments made by local school districts for special  
14 education, room and board, and other related services provided  
15 by non-public schools or special education facilities and shall  
16 establish uniform standards and criteria which it shall follow.  
17 The Review Board shall approve the usual and customary rate or  
18 rates of a special education program that (i) is offered by an  
19 out-of-state, non-public provider of integrated autism  
20 specific educational and autism specific residential services,  
21 (ii) offers 2 or more levels of residential care, including at  
22 least one locked facility, and (iii) serves 12 or fewer  
23 Illinois students.

24 The Review Board shall establish uniform definitions and  
25 criteria for accounting separately by special education, room  
26 and board and other related services costs. The Board shall

1 also establish guidelines for the coordination of services and  
2 financial assistance provided by all State agencies to assure  
3 that no otherwise qualified disabled child receiving services  
4 under Article 14 shall be excluded from participation in, be  
5 denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under  
6 any program or activity provided by any State agency.

7 The Review Board shall review the costs for special  
8 education and related services provided by non-public schools  
9 or special education facilities and shall approve or disapprove  
10 such facilities in accordance with the rules and regulations  
11 established by it with respect to allowable costs.

12 The State Board of Education shall provide administrative  
13 and staff support for the Review Board as deemed reasonable by  
14 the State Superintendent of Education. This support shall not  
15 include travel expenses or other compensation for any Review  
16 Board member other than the State Superintendent of Education.

17 The Review Board shall seek the advice of the Advisory  
18 Council on Education of Children with Disabilities on the rules  
19 and regulations to be promulgated by it relative to providing  
20 special education services.

21 If a child has been placed in a program in which the actual  
22 per pupil costs of tuition for special education and related  
23 services based on program enrollment, excluding room, board and  
24 transportation costs, exceed \$4,500 and such costs have been  
25 approved by the Review Board, the district shall pay such total  
26 costs which exceed \$4,500. A district making such tuition

1 payments in excess of \$4,500 pursuant to this Section shall be  
2 responsible for an amount in excess of \$4,500 equal to the  
3 district per capita tuition charge and shall be eligible for  
4 reimbursement from the State for the amount of such payments  
5 actually made in excess of the districts per capita tuition  
6 charge for students not receiving special education services.

7 If a child has been placed in an approved individual  
8 program and the tuition costs including room and board costs  
9 have been approved by the Review Board, then such room and  
10 board costs shall be paid by the appropriate State agency  
11 subject to the provisions of Section 14-8.01 of this Act. Room  
12 and board costs not provided by a State agency other than the  
13 State Board of Education shall be provided by the State Board  
14 of Education on a current basis. In no event, however, shall  
15 the State's liability for funding of these tuition costs begin  
16 until after the legal obligations of third party payors have  
17 been subtracted from such costs. If the money appropriated by  
18 the General Assembly for such purpose for any year is  
19 insufficient, it shall be apportioned on the basis of the  
20 claims approved. Each district shall submit estimated claims to  
21 the State Superintendent of Education. Upon approval of such  
22 claims, the State Superintendent of Education shall direct the  
23 State Comptroller to make payments on a monthly basis. The  
24 frequency for submitting estimated claims and the method of  
25 determining payment shall be prescribed in rules and  
26 regulations adopted by the State Board of Education. Such

1 current state reimbursement shall be reduced by an amount equal  
2 to the proceeds which the child or child's parents are eligible  
3 to receive under any public or private insurance or assistance  
4 program. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as  
5 relieving an insurer or similar third party from an otherwise  
6 valid obligation to provide or to pay for services provided to  
7 a disabled child.

8 If it otherwise qualifies, a school district is eligible  
9 for the transportation reimbursement under Section 14-13.01  
10 and for the reimbursement of tuition payments under this  
11 Section whether the non-public school or special education  
12 facility, public out-of-state school or county special  
13 education facility, attended by a child who resides in that  
14 district and requires special educational services, is within  
15 or outside of the State of Illinois. However, a district is not  
16 eligible to claim transportation reimbursement under this  
17 Section unless the district certifies to the State  
18 Superintendent of Education that the district is unable to  
19 provide special educational services required by the child for  
20 the current school year.

21 Nothing in this Section authorizes the reimbursement of a  
22 school district for the amount paid for tuition of a child  
23 attending a non-public school or special education facility,  
24 public out-of-state school or county special education  
25 facility unless the school district certifies to the State  
26 Superintendent of Education that the special education program

1 of that district is unable to meet the needs of that child  
2 because of his disability and the State Superintendent of  
3 Education finds that the school district is in substantial  
4 compliance with Section 14-4.01. However, if a child is  
5 unilaterally placed by a State agency or any court in a  
6 non-public school or special education facility, public  
7 out-of-state school, or county special education facility, a  
8 school district shall not be required to certify to the State  
9 Superintendent of Education, for the purpose of tuition  
10 reimbursement, that the special education program of that  
11 district is unable to meet the needs of a child because of his  
12 or her disability.

13 Any educational or related services provided, pursuant to  
14 this Section in a non-public school or special education  
15 facility or a special education facility owned and operated by  
16 a county government unit shall be at no cost to the parent or  
17 guardian of the child. However, current law and practices  
18 relative to contributions by parents or guardians for costs  
19 other than educational or related services are not affected by  
20 this amendatory Act of 1978.

21 Reimbursement for children attending public school  
22 residential facilities shall be made in accordance with the  
23 provisions of this Section.

24 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any school  
25 district receiving a payment under this Section or under  
26 Section 14-7.02b, 14-13.01, or 29-5 of this Code may classify



1 all or a portion of the funds that it receives in a particular  
2 fiscal year or from general State aid pursuant to Section  
3 18-8.05 of this Code as funds received in connection with any  
4 funding program for which it is entitled to receive funds from  
5 the State in that fiscal year (including, without limitation,  
6 any funding program referenced in this Section), regardless of  
7 the source or timing of the receipt. The district may not  
8 classify more funds as funds received in connection with the  
9 funding program than the district is entitled to receive in  
10 that fiscal year for that program. Any classification by a  
11 district must be made by a resolution of its board of  
12 education. The resolution must identify the amount of any  
13 payments or general State aid to be classified under this  
14 paragraph and must specify the funding program to which the  
15 funds are to be treated as received in connection therewith.  
16 This resolution is controlling as to the classification of  
17 funds referenced therein. A certified copy of the resolution  
18 must be sent to the State Superintendent of Education. The  
19 resolution shall still take effect even though a copy of the  
20 resolution has not been sent to the State Superintendent of  
21 Education in a timely manner. No classification under this  
22 paragraph by a district shall affect the total amount or timing  
23 of money the district is entitled to receive under this Code.  
24 No classification under this paragraph by a district shall in  
25 any way relieve the district from or affect any requirements  
26 that otherwise would apply with respect to that funding

1 program, including any accounting of funds by source, reporting  
2 expenditures by original source and purpose, reporting  
3 requirements, or requirements of providing services.

4 (Source: P.A. 93-1022, eff. 8-24-04; 94-177, eff. 7-12-05.)

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
6 becoming law.