

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Community college" means a public community college in  
8 this State.

9 "State university" means a public university in this State.

10 Section 10. Associate degree for transfer.

11 (a) Commencing with the fall term of the 2016-2017 academic  
12 year, a community college student who earns an associate degree  
13 for transfer, an Associate of Arts, or an Associate of Science  
14 that is consistent with degree requirements of the Illinois  
15 Community College Board and the Board of Higher Education and  
16 aligned with the policies and procedures of the Illinois  
17 Articulation Initiative, granted pursuant to subsection (b) of  
18 this Section is deemed eligible for transfer into the  
19 baccalaureate program of a State university if the student  
20 meets the requirements of the transfer degree and  
21 major-specific prerequisites and obtains a minimum grade point  
22 average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.

1           (b) As a condition of receipt of State funds, a community  
2 college district shall develop and grant associate degrees for  
3 transfer that meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this  
4 Section. A community college district may not impose any  
5 requirements in addition to the requirements of this Section  
6 for a student to be eligible for an associate degree for  
7 transfer and subsequent admission to a State university  
8 pursuant to Section 15 of this Act without the approval of the  
9 Illinois Community College Board and the Board of Higher  
10 Education.

11           (c) The General Assembly encourages a community college  
12 district to consider the articulation agreements and other work  
13 between the respective faculties from the affected community  
14 college and State universities in implementing the  
15 requirements of this Section.

16           (d) The General Assembly encourages community colleges to  
17 facilitate the acceptance of credits earned at other community  
18 colleges toward an associate degree for transfer pursuant to  
19 this Section.

20           (e) This Section does not preclude students who are  
21 assessed below collegiate level from acquiring remedial  
22 noncollegiate level coursework in preparation for obtaining an  
23 associate degree for transfer. Remedial noncollegiate level  
24 coursework and all other non-transfer coursework must not be  
25 counted as part of the transferable units required pursuant to  
26 subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this Section.

1           Section 15. Admission to a State university.  
2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, a  
3 State university shall admit and grant junior status in a  
4 program, subject to available program capacity, to any Illinois  
5 community college student who:

6           (1) meets all of the requirements of Section 10 of this  
7 Act;

8           (2) has completed all lower-division prerequisites;  
9 and

10          (3) meets the admission requirements of the State  
11 university's program or major.

12          Section 20. Coursework.

13          (a) A State university may not require a student  
14 transferring pursuant to this Act to take more than 60  
15 additional semester units beyond the lower-division major  
16 requirements for majors requiring 120 semester units, provided  
17 that the student remains enrolled in the same program of study  
18 and has completed university major transfer requirements.  
19 Specified high unit majors are exempt from this subsection (a)  
20 upon agreement by the board of trustees of the State university  
21 and the Board of Higher Education.

22          (b) A State university may not require students  
23 transferring pursuant to this Act to repeat courses that are  
24 articulated with those taken at the community college and

1 counted toward an associate degree for transfer granted  
2 pursuant to Section 10 of this Act.

3 (c) The General Assembly encourages State universities to  
4 facilitate the seamless transfer of credits toward a  
5 baccalaureate degree pursuant to the intent of this Act.

6 Section 25. Board of Higher Education reviews and reports.

7 (a) The Board of Higher Education shall review the  
8 implementation of this Act and file a report on that review  
9 with the General Assembly on or before May 31, 2017, as  
10 provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization  
11 Act.

12 (b) The Board of Higher Education shall review both of the  
13 following and file a report on that review with the General  
14 Assembly within 4 years after the effective date of this Act,  
15 as provided in Section 3.1 of the General Assembly Organization  
16 Act:

17 (1) The outcomes of implementation of this Act,  
18 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

19 (A) The number and percentage of community college  
20 students who transferred to a State university and  
21 earned an associate degree for transfer pursuant to  
22 this Act.

23 (B) The average amount of time and units it takes a  
24 community college student earning an associate degree  
25 for transfer pursuant to this Act to transfer to and

1 graduate from a State university, as compared to the  
2 average amount of time and units it took community  
3 college transfer students prior to the implementation  
4 of this Act and compared to students using other  
5 transfer processes available.

6 (C) Student progression and completion rates.

7 (D) Other relevant indicators of student success.

8 (E) The degree to which the requirements for an  
9 associate degree for transfer take into account  
10 existing articulation agreements and the degree to  
11 which community colleges facilitate the acceptance of  
12 credits between community college districts, as  
13 outlined in subsections (c) and (d) of Section 10 of  
14 this Act.

15 (F) It is the intent of the General Assembly that  
16 student outcome data provided under this subsection  
17 (b) include the degree to which State universities were  
18 able to accommodate students admitted under this Act in  
19 being admitted to the State university of their choice  
20 and in a major that is similar to their community  
21 college major.

22 (2) Recommendations for statutory changes necessary to  
23 facilitate the goal of a clear and transparent transfer  
24 process.

25 Section 30. Implementation of Act; intent. It is the intent

1 of the General Assembly that the requirements placed on  
2 community college districts pursuant to this Act be carried out  
3 in the normal course of program development and approval,  
4 course scheduling, and degree issuance and do not represent any  
5 new activities or a higher level of service on the part of  
6 community college districts.

7 Section 90. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
8 Section 8.39 as follows:

9 (30 ILCS 805/8.39 new)

10 Sec. 8.39. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8  
11 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
12 implementation of any mandate created by the Student Transfer  
13 Achievement Reform Act.