

SELECT BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
PERTAINING TO EDUCATION  
2025  
PREPARED BY BEV JOHNS  
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House Bill 1237—West II. Amends the School Code. Allows a school to continue to use uniforms or other materials bearing a native name, logo, or mascot that were purchased on or before the effective date of the amendatory Act until September 1, 2030 (rather than 2028) if the school sets forth a reasonable timeline for the selection of a new school or athletic team name, logo, or mascot through formal school board action no later than July 1, 2026 (rather than if certain requirements are met). Includes a marquee, sign, or other permanent school structure that bears the prohibited native name, logo, or mascot that the school shall remove the next time the marquee, sign, or other permanent school structure is remodeled or replaced. Provides that if either a school or federally recognized tribe wishes to terminate consent to use a native name, logo, or mascot, the school shall select a new school or athletic team name, logo, or mascot through formal school board action no later than one year from the date of termination and shall discontinue use of the name, logo, or mascot no later than 3 years from the date of termination (rather than providing that if either a school or federally recognized tribe wishes to terminate an agreement, the school has one year from the date of termination to discontinue its use of the name, logo, or mascot). Makes other changes. Adds an effective date of July 1, 2026. Passed the House. Now in the Senate.

House Bill 1316—Davidsmeyer. Amends the School Code. Provides that the principal or principal's designee (rather than the principal or principal's designee in coordination with the local law enforcement agency) shall attempt to contact (rather than meet with) the student's parent or guardian to ensure the student does not have access to a firearm.

Provides that if the report pertains to a threat of firearm violence made by a student, the principal or the principal's designee shall attempt to (rather than immediately) notify that student's parent or guardian as soon as possible. Provides that the principal or principal's designee shall further attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian so that the parent or guardian may ensure that the student does not have access to a firearm. Passed the House. Now in the Senate.

House Bill 1366—Crawford. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that the special education notice provided to a parent or guardian prior to a meeting shall inform the parent or guardian of the parent's or guardian's right to invite other individuals to the meeting to assist the parent or guardian, including individuals who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the child, and advocates for the parent, guardian, or child. Requires the State Board of Education to prepare and distribute to each school district written informational material about the individualized education program (IEP) facilitation process. Provides that the informational material on IEP facilitation shall be disseminated to parents and guardians by schools using the same distribution methods employed to transmit other documents and information related to an IEP meeting to a parent or guardian. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1368—Dias. Requires approved providers to ensure that professional development activities (rather than professional development) related to literacy instruction (rather than English language arts) are aligned to evidence-based strategies as defined in the comprehensive literacy plan for the State developed by the State Board of Education (rather than aligned with the comprehensive literacy plan for the State developed by the State Board of Education). Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1375—Hernandez. Amends the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Creates emergency rulemaking procedures for the student teaching stipend program. Amends the Downstate Teacher Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Authorizes a person to establish optional credit for periods of service as a student teacher under a specified provision of the Board of Higher Education Act. In provisions requiring an additional employer contribution for certain salary increases greater than 6%,

provides that the System shall exclude any stipends paid to an eligible cooperating teacher under the Board of Higher Education Act. Provides that any benefit increase that results from the amendatory Act is excluded from the definition of "new benefit increase". Amends the Board of Higher Education Act. Creates the student teaching stipend program. Defines terms. Provides that an educator preparation program shall notify the Board of Higher Education of all eligible students and eligible cooperating teachers who qualify for the stipend program. Creates requirements for the disbursement of stipend funds under the program. Provides that an educator preparation program may not prohibit an eligible student from participating in the stipend program or from receiving a stipend from the stipend program. Requires an eligible cooperating teacher who receives a stipend to complete specific training. Requires the Board to issue a report in collaboration with the State Board of Education evaluating the impact of the stipend program. Permits the Board to adopt emergency rules regarding the administration of the stipend program in certain circumstances subject to the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act. Effective immediately. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1411—Davidsmeyer. Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. In provisions concerning bullying prevention, provides that if a school district distributes materials on bullying to students, the materials must be age and developmentally appropriate. Effective July 1, 2025. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1600—Gong-Gershowitz. Creates the Single-Use Plastic Foodware Reduction Act. Defines terms. Provides that a third-party food delivery platform or third-party online ordering platform must allow consumers to request single-use foodware when ordering food or beverages from a restaurant through the platform. Prohibits restaurants using a third-party food delivery platform or third-party online ordering platform from providing single-use foodware unless specifically requested by the consumer. Exempts certain foodware items, including items necessary for safety, items in vending machines, items prepackaged by manufacturers, items at restaurants at Chicago O'Hare or Chicago Midway Airports, and items provided at drive-through windows. Provides for civil penalties for a violation. Limits home rule powers. Effective July 1, 2026. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1787—Hirschauer. Amends the School Safety Drill Act. Replaces everything after the enacting clause. Reinserts the contents of the bill with the following additions. Provides that training shall be provided in person when available. Provides that a school district shall provide support for substitute personnel by ensuring that recommendations are implemented, including, without limitation, that maps indicating all school exits are prominently displayed in every classroom and the information packet given to full-time-equivalent employees includes district-approved materials outlining evacuation and lockdown procedures. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1830—Davis. Amends the School Code. In a provision concerning evidence-based funding for student success, allows the Professional Review Panel to study, at the discretion of the chairperson, any proposed legislation by the General Assembly impacting the provision or the distribution of Tier funds through the evidence-based funding formula or the adequacy targets of organizational units funded through the evidence-based funding formula. Passed House.

House Bill 1838—Tarver II. Amends the School Code. Provides that a school board of a school district with 275,000 students or more shall prohibit any school of the district that has selective admission requirements from requiring a student in a pre-kindergarten program of the district to take a standardized test in order to be admitted to that school. Effective immediately. Passed House.

House Bill 1861. Will Davis. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that for a child residing in a long-term, acute care facility serving a majority of patients who are (i) minor children and (ii) Medicaid-eligible in Harvey School District 152, if a parent or guardian moves out of the State after the child is placed in such a facility, that parent or guardian shall enroll the child in a school in the other state to initiate reimbursement to Illinois. With respect to determining the location of a student's parent or guardian, provides that the information submitted to the State Superintendent of Education must include an affidavit from that school district's superintendent or the facility's director attesting that the location of the parent or guardian is unknown and at least 3 satisfactory attempts (rather than 4 items of documentary evidence that a minimum of 4

separate attempts) were made on 3 separate days to locate the parent or guardian and no response was received from the parent or guardian within 14 days after such satisfactory attempts. Provides that for a child residing in a long-term, acute care facility serving a majority of patients who are (i) minor children and (ii) Medicaid-eligible in Harvey School District 152, the following apply: (1) if the child is not currently enrolled in a school district or if the resident school district is unknown, the appropriate resident school district must be identified and the child must be enrolled in that district prior to the placement of the child, except in emergency situations; (2) for a child with an out-of-state resident district whose out-of-state resident district has refused to enroll the child in the district, despite being contacted by both the nonpublic school within the applicable facility and the State Board of Education, the resident district shall be the student's most recent resident district in Illinois and that resident district shall be the responsible payee; and (3) the equivalent of each applicable child's tuition receipts for the 2025-2026 school year shall be paid to the resident district. Makes other changes. Effective immediately. Replaces references to Harvey School District 152 with West Harvey-Dixmoor Public Schools District 147 or Thornton Township High School District 205. Provides that, for the 2025-2026 school year and every school year thereafter, for a child with an out-of-state resident district whose out-of-state resident district has refused to enroll the child in the district, despite being contacted by both the nonpublic school within the applicable facility and the State Board of Education, the resident district shall be the student's most recent resident district in Illinois and that resident district shall be the responsible payor (instead of payee). Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 1869—Mussman. Amends the Regional Superintendent of Schools Article of the School Code. Allows the State Superintendent of Education to designate a regional office of education or intermediate service center as a learning partner in any iteration of the statewide system of support so that services are provided to schools that are identified for school improvement under (i) the accountability system and (ii) the definition for Targeted, Comprehensive, or Intensive. Provides that the status of learning partner may be revoked at the State Superintendent's sole discretion. Effective July 1, 2025. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2337—Dias. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that a mediation agreement, resolution agreement, or settlement agreement may include, as a condition of settlement, that a parent, a student who is at least 18 years of age or emancipated, the legal guardian of a student, or the designated representative of a student who is at least 18 years of age prospectively waives a legal right or claim if (i) the legal right or claim being waived is related only to the student who is the subject of the mediation, resolution meeting, or settlement negotiations, (ii) the legal right or claim being waived is related to the claims raised in the complaint being settled, and (iii) the prospective waiver is for a reasonable duration not to exceed the duration of the mediation agreement, resolution agreement, or settlement agreement (rather than if a mediation agreement, resolution agreement, or settlement agreement includes, as a condition of settlement, that a parent, a student (if at least 18 years of age or emancipated), the legal guardian of a student, or the designated representative of a student who is at least 18 years of age prospectively waive a legal right or claim, the prospective waiver (i) must be limited to the provision of a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for the student who is the subject of the mediation, resolution meeting, or settlement negotiations and (ii) must be limited in scope and duration and narrowly tailored to the nature and intent of the settlement). Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2390—Muhl. Amends the School Code. In provisions concerning special education joint agreements, provides that, for any member district entering into, amending, renewing, or withdrawing from a joint agreement after the effective date of the amendatory Act, (i) for a member district withdrawing from a joint agreement, the member district's school board shall hold a public hearing on the member district's intent to withdraw at least 18 months before the member district's proposed withdrawal date and a written notice of the member district's intent to withdraw and the details of the public hearing shall be sent to the other member districts of the joint agreement no less than 10 days before the public hearing; (ii) a member district that intends to withdraw from a joint agreement shall adopt a comprehensive plan in accordance with certain provisions and submit the plan to the member district's regional office of education or intermediate service center, whichever is applicable; (iii) upon the receipt of a member district's comprehensive plan, the regional

superintendent of schools or the executive director of the intermediate service center, whichever is applicable, shall ensure certain criteria are met and shall notify the State Board of Education and the other member districts of the joint agreement of his or her approval of the member district's withdrawal; (iv) a joint agreement shall include provisions for the dissolution of assets in the event the joint agreement is dissolved and provisions for the distribution of assets in the event a member district withdraws from the joint agreement; and (v) a joint agreement shall include a requirement for an annual presentation of the joint agreement's fiscal year budget and the calculation of member and usage fees to all member districts.

Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2521—Dias. Amends the Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act. Provides that an association or other entity that has, as one of its purposes, promoting, sponsoring, regulating, or in any manner providing for interscholastic athletics or any form of athletic competition among schools and students within the State shall require applicants for licensure as an official to authorize a fingerprint-based criminal history records check to determine if such applicants have been convicted of any disqualifying, enumerated criminal or drug offenses or have been convicted, within 7 years of the application for employment with the school district, of any other felony under the laws of the State or of any offense committed or attempted in any other state or against the laws of the United States that, if committed or attempted in the State, would have been punishable as a felony under the laws of the State. Requires the Illinois State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall furnish, pursuant to a fingerprint-based criminal history records check, records of convictions, forever and hereafter, until expunged, to the executive director for the association or entity that requested the check. Provides that the association executive shall further perform a check of the Statewide Sex Offender Database and the Statewide Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Database for each applicant once every 5 years that an applicant remains licensed by the association. Provides that pending full clearance of all background check requirements, the prospective official must be supervised at all times by an individual who received a qualifying result on all background check components. Effective July 1, 2026.

Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2537—Mussman. . Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Provides that, by the school year in which a student turns 16, the transition planning process must include discussions with the student's individualized education program (IEP) team regarding the student's graduation status and the implications of high school graduation. Requires the transition planning process to include informing the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the student's designated representative that (i) graduation with a regular high school diploma terminates the student's eligibility for a free appropriate public education (FAPE) and (ii) the student can continue to receive IEP services until the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 when appropriate to meet the student's IEP goals. Effective immediately. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2574—Scherer. Amends the School Code. Requires, on or before July 1, 2025 and each fiscal year thereafter, the State Board of Education to report specified information for each assessment contract it enters into. Requires the State Board to make the compiled information available on its Internet website. Requires the State Board to engage with certain groups to enhance the transparency around assessments. Allows the State Board to adopt rules to carry out its responsibilities under the provisions. Effective immediately. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2966—Muhl. Amends the School Code. Authorizes the State Board of Education to award grants to school districts in the State for the purpose of incentivizing those districts to conduct reorganization feasibility studies. Provides that, to be eligible for a grant under these provisions, the board of the school district that is applying for the grant shall (i) negotiate a proposed agreement to secure the services of a third-party consultant who will conduct the reorganization feasibility study; (ii) adopt a resolution that is signed by the board president of the district and calls for the initiation of a school district reorganization feasibility study in accordance with the terms of the proposed agreement and any rules adopted by the State Board of Education; and (iii) submit the completed agreement form, the signed board resolution, and such other information as the State Board of Education may, by administrative rule, require, to the regional office of education or the executive director of the intermediate service center for the district for approval. Provides that, upon receipt of a complete application from a



district, the regional office of education or the executive director of the intermediate service center shall either (i) approve the agreement and send the agreement to the State Board of Education or (ii) disapprove the agreement and return the agreement to the district with a letter of explanation. Authorizes the State Board of Education to award grants under these provisions to districts for which it receives an approved agreement. Requires the State Board of Education to annually notify each school district in the State of the availability of grant funds and to provide with that notice specified information. Provides that, every 2 years, each board that receives a notice may include the question of whether to pursue this grant funding as an action item on the agenda at one of its meetings. Authorizes the State Board of Education to provide a school district up to the maximum reimbursement amount set by the State Board of Education, for the purpose of covering all or part of the costs borne by the school district to conduct a reorganization feasibility study. Directs the State Board of Education, in awarding these grants, to prioritize districts that are contiguous with one another, districts that have similar property tax rates, districts with similar per-pupil adequacy funding, and, beginning in State fiscal year 2030, other districts that have been identified as priority districts by the State Board of Education pursuant to rules it adopts. Prohibits a school district from being awarded a grant under these provisions in any 2 consecutive award cycles. Allows the State Board of Education to adopt any rules it deems necessary to implement and administer this program of grant funding, including, but not limited to, rules establishing the criteria that must be met by the third-party consultants who will perform the feasibility studies, rules describing minimum criteria to be included in agreements executed with the third-party consultants who will perform the feasibility studies described in this Section, and, beginning in State fiscal year 2030, rules identifying additional types of school districts to be prioritized for grant funding under these provisions. Directs the State Board of Education, in State fiscal year 2035, and every 5 years thereafter, to reevaluate and, if necessary, amend the rules identifying additional types of school districts to be prioritized for grant funding. Defines terms. Effective immediately. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2970—Moeller. Amends the School Code. Allows a teacher to grieve the issuance of a warning regarding causes that are considered remediable pursuant to the applicable collective bargaining agreement to determine whether the school district had just cause in issuing the warning.

Requires notice of remedial warnings to be narrowly specify the nature of the alleged misconduct that needs to be remedied. Provides that general allegations of unprofessional conduct are insufficient to link together otherwise unrelated offenses as related. Provides that under no circumstances shall a notice of remedial warning remain effective or within a teacher's personnel file or record for longer than 3 years from the date of the occurrence which gave rise to the issuance of the notice of remedial warning. Effective immediately.

Provides that nothing in the Section concerning the removal or dismissal of teachers in contractual continued service precludes a school board from asserting that the specific conduct alleged in an original notice of remedial warning letter is part of an alleged pattern of behavior, but the original warning or subsequent action taken must be reasonably related to the specific conduct alleged. Removes the language that provides that general allegations of unprofessional conduct or similar phrases are insufficient to link together otherwise unrelated offenses as related. Provides that under no circumstances may a notice of remedial warning remain effective for longer than 4 years from the date of the issuance of the notice of remedial warning (rather than remain effective or within a teacher's personnel file or record for longer than 3 years from the date of the occurrence which gave rise to the issuance of the notice of remedial warning). Requires the school district to use reasonable efforts to remove the notice of remedial warning from the teacher's personnel file after the 4 years have elapsed or sooner if agreed through the exclusive bargaining representative. Corrects grammatical and terminology errors. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 2976—Tarver II. Amends the Compulsory Attendance Article of the School Code. Provides that a civic event that a child may be excused from school to engage in means an event sponsored by a nonprofit organization or governmental entity that is open to the public and includes, but is not limited to, an inauguration or an artistic or cultural performance or educational gathering that supports the mission of the sponsoring nonprofit organization. Allows the State Board of Education to adopt rules to further define "civic event". Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3000—Hammond. Amends the School Code. In provisions concerning identification cards and suicide prevention information, provides that each school district that serves pupils in any of grades 6 through 12

and that issues an identification card to school employees serving any of grades 6 through 12 shall provide on the identification card the same contact information concerning suicide prevention that is required to be provided on a pupil's identification card. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3009—Sosnowski. Amends the School Code. Provides that immediately upon the determination of a substantial deficiency in reading or the characteristics of dyslexia based upon (i) screening, diagnostic, progress monitoring, or assessment data, (ii) statewide assessments, or (iii) teacher observations, the parent or legal guardian of a student in grades 1 through 3 who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading must be notified in writing by the student's teacher of the following: (1) that the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading; (2) a description of the services that the school district currently is providing to the student; (3) a description of the proposed supplemental instructional services and supports that are designed to remediate the identified area of reading deficiency which the school district plans to provide the student; and (4) strategies for parents and guardians to use in helping the student to succeed in reading proficiency. Re-referred to House Rules.

House Bill 3026—Rashid. Amends the School Code by adding the Dual Language Education Article. Requires, by December 15, 2026, the State Board to adopt comprehensive guidance for school districts regarding the establishment of new dual language education programs and the expansion of existing dual language education programs. Requires, by July 1, 2029, the State Board of Education's Equity Journey Continuum to integrate into the comprehensive strategic plan dual language education into the broader framework of student learning to ensure it is considered an essential part of educational equity and excellence and specific provisions for dual language teachers, focusing on recruitment, professional development, and retention of bilingual educators. Requires, by July 1, 2027, the State Board to establish recognition pathways for biliteracy at various levels before high school. Allows school districts to choose to participate in the pathways to biliteracy program. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3039—Rohr Amends the School Code. Allows a student enrolled in grade 7 or 8 to enroll in a required high school course if the course is offered by the high school that the student would attend and the student participates in the course where the student attends school as long as the student passes the course and the end-of-course examination given at the high school granting the credit for the same course, demonstrating proficiency at the high school level. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3081—Ortiz. Amends the School Code. Creates the Out-of-School Time (OST) Advisory Council for the purpose of providing information and advice to the Governor and State agencies regarding State and federal policy and funding issues affecting out of school time programs. Sets forth membership, co-chairperson's and meetings. Provides that the OST Advisory Council shall: (1) provide information on the status of funding provided for OST programs in each fiscal year; (2) provide recommendations on legislative and administrative action needed to ensure that funding for before and after school programs is allocated promptly to qualified providers of OST programs; (3) provide information on the quality of services and accountability measures that are appropriate for school-age children and youth; (4) provide information regarding challenges faced by OST programs that impede the provision of the best possible services; (5) provide recommendations on the equitable reach of OST programs to ensure that the State has policies in place that promote access to the children and youth most in need of services; (6) make recommendations to the Governor and State agencies on reporting requirements, priority points, statewide evaluation, and licensure for OST programs; and (7) create and deliver to the Governor and General Assembly an annual report on statewide successes in OST and areas of growth for the future. Effective July 1, 2025. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3275—Dias. In the Interscholastic Athletic Organization Act, requires all paid school head coaches or chief sponsors of the activity (rather than all school coaches) to obtain and maintain certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid, and the use of an automatic external defibrillator (AED). In the School Safety Drill Act, requires a cardiac emergency response plan to include training on symptom and warning signs of sudden cardiac arrest, hands-only CPR, and use of AEDs (rather than information on hands-only CPR and use of AEDs) and

establishing a cardiac emergency response team trained in CPR and the use of an AED consistent with national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines, and provides that cardiac response drills may be conducted without student participation. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3376—Mussman. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to provide regulatory guidance to relevant stakeholders regarding individualized education program evaluations. Held on Second Reading.

House Bill 3503—Tarver II. Changes the name of the Act to the Illinois Instructional Mandates Overview and Alignment Act. Changes all uses of the term "curriculum" to "instructional mandates". Requires, beginning January 1, 2026, the State Board of Education to conduct a comprehensive review of all mandated units of study whenever new standards for student learning are adopted or every 10 years, whichever happens first (rather than every 5 years). Removes language providing that the General Assembly shall appropriate funds necessary for the State Board of Education to carry out the requirements of the Act. Makes other changes. Effective immediately. Passed House.

House Bill 3772—Will Davis. Provides that the decision to suspend a student in preschool for 4 (rather than 3) or more days shall be made by superintendent of the school district, director of an early childhood program, or their equivalent. Allows a student in kindergarten through grade 2 to be expelled under the federal Gun-Free Schools Act (rather than any federal or State law). Provides that students in kindergarten through grade 2 shall begin separated by beginning on July, 1 2026. Provides that beginning July 1,2026, the decision to suspend a student in kindergarten through grade 2 for 4 (rather than 3) or more days be made by anyone other than the superintendent of the district. Removes language that provides that: a student who is suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately transferred to an alternative program in, subject to the restrictions for transfer; and a student shall not be denied transfer because of the suspension, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. Provides

that expulsion period modifications shall be in writing. Provides that a provision regarding the general standards for eligibility for funding are subject to specified limitations. Makes a corresponding change in the Department of Early Childhood Act. Passed House. Now in Senate.

House Bill 3851—Rohr. Amends the Courses of Study Article of the School Code. In provisions concerning bullying and cyber-bullying, provides that bullying includes posting or distributing sexually explicit images. Provides that, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, the term "cyber-bullying" includes the posting or distribution of a digital replica by electronic means. Defines "artificial intelligence", "digital replica", and "generative artificial intelligence". Replaces everything after the enacting clause with the provisions of the introduced bill, but changes the definitions of "artificial intelligence", "digital replica", and "generative artificial intelligence" to have the same meaning as in the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act. Effective July 1, 2026. Passed House. Now in Senate.

Senate Bill 2—Martwick. Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Makes changes to Tier 2 benefits, including changing the amount of the automatic annual increase to 3% of the originally granted retirement annuity or 3% of the retirement annuity then being paid for the General Assembly and Judges Articles, changing the limit on the amount of salary for annuity purposes to the Social Security wage base, changing the calculation of final average salary to the Tier 1 calculation for persons who are active members on or after January 1, 2026, and changing the retirement age. Establishes an accelerated pension benefit payment option for the General Assembly, Chicago Teachers, and Judges Articles of the Code. Provides that, with regard to persons subject to the Tier 2 provisions, a security employee of the Department of Human Services, a security employee of the Department of Corrections or the Department of Juvenile Justice, an investigator for the Department of the Lottery, or a State highway worker is entitled to an annuity calculated under the alternative retirement annuity provisions of the State Employee Article of the Code. Authorizes the conversion of service to eligible creditable service. Provides that the Retirement Systems Reciprocal Act (Article 20 of the Code) is adopted and made a part of the Downstate Police, Downstate Firefighter, Chicago

Police, and Chicago Firefighter Articles. Authorizes SLEP status under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund for a person who is a county correctional officer or probation officer and for a person who participates in IMRF and qualifies as a firefighter under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act. In the Downstate Firefighter Article, includes a de facto firefighter in the definition of "firefighter". Defines "de facto firefighter". Provides that the monthly pension of a firefighter who is receiving a disability pension shall be increased at the rate of 3% of the original monthly pension. Makes changes to the minimum retirement annuity payable to a firefighter with 20 or more years of creditable service, the minimum disability pension, and the minimum surviving spouse's pension. Makes other changes. Amends the State Mandates Act to require implementation without reimbursement by the State. Effective immediately. Senate assignments

Senate Bill 71—Murphy. Amends the School Safety Drill Act. Removes the definition of "route". Changes references from hazardous substance release plans to procedures. Makes changes to provide that evacuation incidents and severe weather and shelter-in-place incidents may include incidents involving the release or explosion of hazardous substances. Requires each school board to invite to each annual review the applicable emergency services and disaster agency or applicable local emergency planning committee. Replaces the provisions concerning a hazardous substance release plan with provisions concerning hazardous substance release guidance and procedures. Requires, by July 1, 2026, the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Office of Homeland Security to develop and provide guidance to all local emergency planning committees, emergency services and disaster agencies, and school districts in the State specifically related to the potential impact to school districts of a release or explosion of a hazardous substance resulting from storage or rail transport; sets forth what the guidance must include. Requires, by July 1, 2027, each school district to develop procedures for each of its schools to address the release or explosion of a hazardous substance based on the guidance. Provides that each school district shall make available to all school personnel relevant and appropriate information related to the procedures. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 144—Villanueva. Amends the School Code. Provides that for charter schools located in the Chicago school district, if a charter school proposes to close one or more campuses during the term of its contract,

then (i) the charter school shall announce the proposal no later than September 1 of the year prior to the effective date of the closure, (ii) the charter school is subject to specified procedures in the Chicago School District Article, and (iii) the school board retains authority to approve or deny the closure. Provides that if the school board approves the closure, the governing body of the charter school shall work collaboratively with the school board, educators, and the families of students attending the campus of the charter school that is the subject of the closure to ensure successful integration of affected students into new learning environments. Provides that affected students who reside in the district shall be guaranteed a seat at a district school. Provides that upon the closing of a charter school located in the Chicago school district, the charter school's licensed teachers shall be guaranteed a similar position for which they are qualified at a district school with full recognition of prior service if they choose to work in the district. Provides that teachers in the closed charter school without an educator license shall be provided a pathway to a short-term license and preference in receiving a job at a district school. Senate Third Reading.

Senate Bill 1195—Edly-Allen. Amends the Illinois Police Training Act. Requires the curriculum for probationary law enforcement officers to include a block of instruction addressing trauma-informed programs, procedures, and practices meant to minimize traumatization of the victim. Requires minimum in-service training requirements that a law enforcement officer must satisfactorily complete every 3 years to include trauma-informed programs, procedures, and practices meant to minimize traumatization of the victim. Requires the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to conduct or approve training programs in trauma-informed responses and investigation of sexual assault and sexual abuse to include identifying conflicts of interest and options to address those conflicts when a responding or investigating officer is familiar with the victim or accused. Passed in Senate. Now in House Judiciary-Criminal.

Senate Bill 1231—Loughran Cappel. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Allows the school district to initiate an impartial due process hearing within 14 (rather than 5) days of any written parent



request for an independent educational evaluation to show that its evaluation is appropriate. Requires an independent educational evaluation at public expense to be completed within 60 school days (rather than 30 days) of a parent's written request unless the school district initiates an impartial due process hearing or the parent or school district offers reasonable grounds to show that such time period should be extended. Provides that if the due process hearing decision indicates that the parent is entitled to an independent educational evaluation, it must be completed within 60 school days (rather than 30 days) of the decision unless the parent or the school district offers reasonable grounds to show that such period should be extended. Allows a school district to initiate an impartial due process hearing within 7 school days (rather than 14 days) of any written parent request for an independent educational evaluation to show that its evaluation is appropriate. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy.

SB 1329—Murphy. Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Superintendent of Education may notify a license holder's current or most recent employer, if the employer is a public school or school district, charter school, special education cooperative, nonpublic school, nonpublic special education facility, or public school residential facility, that the license holder is being investigated for an alleged act of misconduct that constitutes a threat to the safety of students. Passed Senate. Now in House Elem. and Sec. Ed Administration, Licensing and Charters.

SB 1519—Villa and Ventura. Provides that the required annual report regarding the number of students who were referred to a law enforcement agency or official shall begin with the 2027-2028 school year. Removes incident type and age from the data to be reported. Provides that the report on student referrals to law enforcement in all school districts in the State shall begin on or before January 31, 2029 (rather than 2027). Gives rulemaking authority to the State Board of Education. Requires a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a school district for any school district that uses a school resource officer; makes related changes. Provides that a student must not be issued

a monetary fine, fee, ticket, or citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence or for a municipal code violation on school grounds during school-related events or activities or while taking school transportation by any person (rather than school personnel may not issue a monetary fine, fee, ticket, or citation for a municipal code violation). Excludes traffic, boating, and fish and game law violations. Effective immediately.

**Senate Floor Amendment No. 3**

Makes the following changes: In the provisions concerning law enforcement referral reports, removes language that provides that the reported data shall be disaggregated by the result of the referral and removes rulemaking authority for the State Board of Education. Provides that the requirement for a memorandum of understanding between a local law enforcement agency and a school district for a school resource officer begins July 1, 2026. Makes a change concerning the memorandum of understanding. Provides that a student must not be issued a monetary fine, fee, ticket, or citation as a school-based disciplinary consequence or for a municipal code violation on school grounds during school hours (rather than during school-related events or activities, whether in-person or virtual). Effective immediately.

Passed the Senate. Now in House education Policy Committee.

SB 1555-Cappel. Amends the Children with Disabilities Article of the School Code. Adds the Secretary of Early Childhood or his or her designee as a member of the Advisory Council on the Education of Children with Disabilities.

**Senate Committee Amendment No. 1**

Removes the creation of a committee charged with ensuring that all children aged 3 to 5 with disabilities have access to high-quality, inclusive, early-childhood services, provided in the least restrictive environment, across all early learning settings

Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy Committee.

SB 1583—Halpin Amends the School Code. . Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may develop, by rules, a credential valid for an individual

to serve as an educator in a specific education area or grade range for a temporary period of time and upon meeting the conditions set forth in those rules, to be known as a Short-Term Approval. Provides that a Short-Term Approval may be issued on an existing educator license or may stand alone, as applicable to the particular Short-Term Approval. Requires a Short-Term Approval to have an expiration date without the ability to renew. Provides that before the expiration of an educator's Short-Term Approval, the educator must obtain a license or endorsement in the same specific education area or grade range as the Short-Term Approval, and if the educator does not obtain the required license or endorsement in the specific education area or grade range and the Short-Term Approval expires, the educator is not eligible to continue serving as an educator in the specific education area or grade range. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may consider extending the expiration date of the educator's Short-Term Approval if the educator can demonstrate that a serious health condition inhibited the educator's ability to timely apply for and receive the license or endorsement for the specific education area or grade range for which the Short-Term Approval was issued. Allows an educator to receive only one extension for each Short-Term Approval for no more than one year. Passed Senate. Now in Elem. and Sec. Ed. Administration, Licensing, and Charter Schools.

Senate Bill 1584—Feigenholtz. . Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may develop, by rules, a credential valid for an individual to serve as an educator in a specific education area or grade range for a temporary period of time and upon meeting the conditions set forth in those rules, to be known as a Short-Term Approval. Provides that a Short-Term Approval may be issued on an existing educator license or may stand alone, as applicable to the particular Short-Term Approval. Requires a Short-Term Approval to have an expiration date without the ability to renew. Provides that before the expiration of an educator's Short-Term Approval, the educator must obtain a license or endorsement in the same specific education area or grade range as the Short-Term Approval, and if the educator does not obtain the required license or endorsement in the specific education area or grade range and the Short-Term Approval expires, the educator is not eligible to continue serving as an educator in

the specific education area or grade range. Provides that the State Board of Education, in consultation with the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board, may consider extending the expiration date of the educator's Short-Term Approval if the educator can demonstrate that a serious health condition inhibited the educator's ability to timely apply for and receive the license or endorsement for the specific education area or grade range for which the Short-Term Approval was issued. Allows an educator to receive only one extension for each Short-Term Approval for no more than one year. Passed Senate. Now in Elem. and Sec. Ed. Administration, Licensing, and Charter Schools.

Senate Bill 1605—Turner. Amends the School Code. With respect to prerequisites to receiving a high school diploma, provides that, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, agricultural education, agricultural business, or any other course that relates to agriculture satisfies the vocational education requirement. Effective immediately. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 1616—Villivalam. Amends the School Code. Requires the State Board of Education to identify dates during the year of cultural or religious significance to the student population and in which students may have out-of-school commitments or otherwise be unable to participate in a major school event. Provides that, by July 1 of each year, the State Board shall prominently post on its website and distribute to each school district a nonexhaustive list of the identified corresponding days and dates of cultural, religious, or other observances for, at a minimum, the school year that begins in the next calendar year as a resource for making scheduling decisions for major school events. Provides that, upon the posting and distribution of the list, the State Board shall also inform school districts that the list is nonexhaustive and that a school district may include additional days and dates on its locally created school calendars based on community feedback or demographics. Provides that the State Board shall additionally distribute the list each year to relevant associations or entities as determined by the State Board. Effective immediately. Passed Senate. Now in House Elem. And Sec. Ed Committee Administration, Licensing, and Charter Schools.

Senate Bill 1672—Belt. Amends the School Code. Amends the School Boards Article of the School Code. Provides that, on or before July 1, 2026, each school district that serves students in any of grades kindergarten through 3 shall report specified information to the State Board of Education regarding the use of early literacy screeners. Provides that, on or before January 1, 2027, the Illinois State Board of Education shall file a report with the General Assembly outlining the data received. Requires the report to be posted publicly on the State Board of Education's Internet website no later than January 1, 2027. Repeals the provisions on July 1, 2027. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 1740—Edly-Allen. In the provisions amending the Illinois Grant Funds Recovery Act, removes a reference to grants in excess of \$25,000. In the provisions amending the School Code, restores current law regarding State goals and assessments and special education transition services. Requires the School Code Mandate Reduction Council to meet no less than 4 times between October 1, 2025 and September 1, 2026 (rather than between July 1, 2025 and December 1, 2025). With respect to online safety and media literacy, requires the State Board of Education, subject to appropriation, to prepare and make available multidisciplinary instructional resources and professional learning opportunities for educators (rather than requiring the State Board, by July 1, 2026, to create online safety education curriculum resource materials for all public schools); makes related changes. In a provision regarding general permissive education, changes references from "school", "eligible entity", and "entity" to "school or school board". Further amends the School Code to change (rather than repeal) a Section regarding final grades and promotion. Removes language from that Section providing that no public high school of a school district shall withhold a student's grades, transcripts, or diploma because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account and that at the end of each school year, the school district shall catalogue and report to the State Board the total amount that remains unpaid by students due to the prohibition.

**Senate Floor Amendment No. 3**

Provides that a school board may not discriminate against, punish, or penalize a student in any way because of an unpaid balance on the student's school account. Includes age and developmentally appropriate consent education (rather than consent education) as part of the comprehensive health education program; makes related changes. Passed Senate. Now in Houe Education Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 1799-Villivalam. . Amends the School Code. In a provision concerning third party non-instructional services, allows a board of education to enter into a contract, of no longer than 3 months in duration, with a third party for non-instructional services currently performed by an employee or bargaining unit member for the purpose of augmenting the current workforce in an emergency situation that threatens the safety or health of the school district's students or staff, provided that (i) the school board meets all of its obligations under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act and (ii) the board of education posts all vacant positions used for augmenting the current workforce on the school district's website, in a manner that is easily accessible to the affected bargaining unit and the general public, as well as on all other platforms on which the board of education advertises its vacancies (rather than just provided that the school board meets all of its obligations under the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act); defines "emergency situation". Provides that the board of education must post all vacant positions in the manner described in the amendatory provisions for the entirety of an emergency contract and the entirety of any reviewed emergency contract until the emergency contract expires. Provides that a board of education that attempts to renew or enter into any new contract of any type whatsoever for any reason whatsoever with a third party for non-instructional services to augment the current workforce for a group of employees in an emergency situation 2 times must follow specified steps or obtain mutual agreement with the affected bargaining unit, if any. The mutual agreement must be separate from the collective bargaining agreement that the affected bargaining unit has with the board of education. Provides that a board of education that attempts to renew or enter into any new contract of any type whatsoever for any reason whatsoever with a third party for non-instructional services to augment the current workforce for a group of employees in an emergency situation 3 times or more is required to obtain mutual agreement with the affected bargaining unit. Provides that the mutual agreement must be separate from the collective bargaining agreement that the affected bargaining unit has with the board of education. Effective July 1, 2026. Passed Senate. Now in House Labor and Commerce.

Senate Bill 1920—D. Turner. Amends the School Code. Provides that, no later than July 1, 2026, the State Board of Education shall encourage

districts to collect teaching resources to support American Sign Language programs. Provides that the teaching resources may include, but need not be limited to, (i) the importance and benefits of American Sign Language instruction for early ages and the prevalence of American Sign Language in the United States, (ii) information on ways to implement American Sign Language instruction into kindergarten through grade 8 curriculum, and (iii) information on how to properly administer American Sign Language instruction for students in kindergarten through grade 8.

Passed Senate. Now in House Administration, Licensing, and Charter Schools.

Senate Bill 1943—Cappel. Amends the School Code. Removes the phrase "improper use". In the definition of "isolated time out" or "time out", provides that in no instance may school personnel use mechanical, chemical, prone, or any other prohibited method of restraint. Makes other changes to definitions. Provides that in any instance of use of isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint, school district employees shall consider whether the student has an individualized education program or federal Section 504 plan that includes a behavior intervention plan and whether the use of isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint implicates that plan. Prohibits the use of a locked room or a room in which the door is obstructed, prohibiting it from opening, for isolated time out or time out unless the staff member supervising the room determines (rather than determines in the staff member's own best judgment) that the egress must be blocked for no more than 15 minutes (rather than a short period of time) in order to prevent the student from harming the student, the staff member, or another student (rather than to maintain safety of students and staff). Provides that the complaint procedure shall allow any organization or advocate to file a sworn, written complaint with the State Board of Education alleging concerns that a school district or other entity serving students has violated the time out, isolated time out, and restraint provisions, and includes information the complaint shall contain. Removes language requiring the State Board to annually convene a group of stakeholders on time out, isolated time out, and restraint. Corrects grammatical and terminology errors. Reassigned to Senate Assignments.

Senate Bill 1947—Cappel. Amends the Educator Licensure Article of the School Code. Adds 5 administrative or faculty members of community colleges to the State Educator Preparation and Licensure Board. For a Professional Educator License: provides that the requirements to successfully complete specified coursework are only required until July 1, 2027 or the date that the revised test for a particular content area is implemented, whichever is later; and exempts persons seeking a school support personnel or chief school business official endorsement from the requirement that a person must successfully complete specified coursework. Requires, by July 1, 2027, the State Superintendent of Education to begin incorporating specified topics into revised examinations for individuals seeking a Professional Educator License endorsed in teaching or administration, excluding a chief school business official endorsement. Exempts, for educator licenses, applicants seeking a school support personnel endorsement who hold an active and valid professional license in the same subject matter as the endorsement sought from being required to pass a test of content area knowledge for each area of endorsement for which there is an applicable test. Creates the Teacher Performance Assessment Advisory Committee to aid in operationalizing and creating a pilot, State-developed, teacher performance assessment. Establishes the Paraprofessional to Teacher Pathway Program to provide an expedited pathway for paraprofessionals to earn a Professional Educator License in a specific content area. Sets forth the Program criteria, the requirements for individuals for entry into the Program, and the adoption of rules by the State Board of Education. Provides that an institution of higher education approved to offer educator preparation programs may enter into a partnership agreement with a community college to offer an approved educator preparation program leading to educator licensure for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree. Makes other changes. In provisions concerning educator testing, removes the requirement that no candidate may be allowed to student teach or serve as the teacher of record until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

teach or serve as the teacher of record until he or she has passed the applicable content area test.

### **[Senate Floor Amendment No. 2](#)**

Provides that the Educator Preparation and Licensure Board shall have 3 (rather than 5) administrative or faculty members of public community colleges located in the State. Provides that language specifying that certain candidates are not required to pass a teacher performance assessment



applies through August 31, 2026 (rather than 2025). Provides that beginning on September 1, 2029 (rather than July 1, 2028), certain candidates are required to pass a teacher performance assessment approved by the State Board of Education; however, any candidate who has successfully completed student teaching or has met one of the student teaching exceptions set forth in rules prior to September 1, 2028 is exempt from this requirement. Makes other changes.

Passed Senate. Now in House Elem and Secondary Ed Administration, Licensing, and Charter Schools.

Senate Bill 1983—Edly-Allen. Amends the School Code. Removes language providing that a local program for the education of gifted and talented children may be approved for funding by the State Board of Education if funds for that purpose are available and if the local program submits an application for funds that includes a comprehensive plan. Removes language providing that the State Board of Education staff person in charge of educational programs for gifted and talented children shall be responsible for developing an approval process for educational programs for gifted and talented children. Makes related changes. Removes changes made to a provision regarding Evidence-Based Funding for student success for the 2017-2018 and subsequent school years. Removes changes made to a provision regarding Evidence-Based Funding for student success for the 2017-2018 and subsequent school years. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy Committee.

Senate Bill 2057—Hastings. Amends the School Safety Drill Act. Requires the State Board of Education and the Office of the State Fire Marshal to develop clear and definitive guidelines to school districts, private schools, and first responders as to how to develop threat assessment procedures, rapid entry response plans, and cardiac emergency response plans. Requires the State Board, in consultation with the Illinois State Police, to adopt rules to implement the amendatory Act. Grants emergency rulemaking powers to the State Board, in consultation with the Illinois State Police, to implement the amendatory Act for a period not to exceed 365 days after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Requires the State Board to provide school districts with guidance outlining what steps or consideration shall be included within the school district's threat assessment procedure. Makes a corresponding change in the Illinois

Administrative Procedure Act. Effective immediately. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy.

Senate Bill 2062—Castro. Amends the Charter Schools Article of the School Code. Requires a charter school authorized by the State Board of Education to provide a copy of its charter renewal proposal to the local school board or boards of the resident district or districts at the same time that it submits its proposal to the State Board. Allows the local school board of each resident district to have an opportunity to negotiate with the charter school for a transfer of authorization prior to the State Board voting on the renewal proposal. Provides that authorization shall be transferred from the State Board to a local school board at the end of the charter term with the agreement of both the charter school and the local school board. Allows the State Board to adopt any rules necessary to implement the changes made by the amendatory Act. Third Reading Senate.

Senate Bill 2423—Lightford. Amends the School Code. Provides that early childhood programs receiving State funds shall restrict suspensions. Provides that the decision to suspend a student in preschool for 3 or more days may only be made by the superintendent of the school district, director of an early childhood program, or their equivalent and that the length of the suspension for any student in preschool may not be longer than the number of days required by the school district or early childhood program to develop and implement a behavior intervention plan or safety plan. Prohibits a student in kindergarten through grade 2 from being expelled unless otherwise required by federal or State law. Provides that the decision to suspend a student in kindergarten through grade 2 for 3 or more days may only be made by the superintendent of the school district and that the length of the suspension for any student in kindergarten through grade 2 may not be longer than the number of days required by the school district to develop and implement a behavior intervention plan or safety plan. Provides that a student who is suspended in excess of 20 school days may be immediately transferred to an alternative program. Provides that a student shall not be denied transfer because of the suspension, except in cases in which such transfer is deemed to cause a threat to the safety of students or staff in the alternative program. Makes other changes. Second Reading Senate.

Senate Bill 2427—Castro. Amends the School Code. Provides that, on or before the 2026-2027 school year, each school board (and each charter school beginning with the 2026-2027 school year) shall adopt and implement a wireless communication device policy that (i) at a minimum, prohibits a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time, except as otherwise provided, and (ii) incorporates guidance for secure and accessible storage of wireless devices during instructional time or directs the school district superintendent or his or her designee to provide such guidance. Provides that the policy may not prohibit a student from using a wireless communication device during instructional time (i) if a licensed physician determines that the possession or use of a wireless communication device is necessary for the health or well-being of the student and the student uses the wireless communication device as prescribed by the licensed physician, (ii) to fulfill an individualized education program or a plan developed under the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or (iii) if the wireless communication device is necessary for students who are English learners to access learning materials. Provides that the policy may allow for certain exceptions. Prohibits a school district or charter school from enforcing the policy through fees, fines, or the deployment of a school resource officer or local law enforcement officer. Requires a school board or charter school to review its policy at least once every 3 years and make any necessary and appropriate revisions to the policy. Provides that a school district or charter school shall publicly post the policy on its website. Provides that if the school district or charter school does not operate a website, then the school district or charter school shall provide a copy of the policy to the parents or guardians of every enrolled student. Passed Senate. Now in House Education Policy.

SR 31—Morrison. Encourages the implementation of a program in K-8 schools to mandate student education on topics of neurodivergence to reinforce Illinois' commitment to providing access to an inclusive future for all students and a safe space for all families in education, cognizant of all neurological backgrounds. Amendment changed some of the terms used. Places on Calendar Order of Secretary's Desk's Resolutions.

