

AN ACT concerning education.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections 10-20.83 and 34-18.78 as follows:

(105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 new)

Sec. 10-20.83. College and career readiness systems.

(a) Subject to subsection (d) of this Section, by July 1, 2025, a school district that enrolls students in any of grades 6 through 12 shall adopt and commence implementation of career exploration and career development activities in accordance with a postsecondary and career expectations framework for each of grades 6 through 12 served by the district that substantially aligns to the model framework adopted by State agencies pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career expectations framework shall be available on a prominent location on the school district's website.

The career exploration and career development activities offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals, including possible

participation in a career and technical education pathway, by providing students with opportunities to explore a wide variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

(b) By no later than July 1, 2025, a school district that enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12 shall either elect to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements in accordance with subsection (c) of this Section or opt out of implementation in accordance with subsection (d) of this Section.

(c) A school district that enrolls students in any of grades 9 through 12 electing to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements shall become an eligible school district and either (i) independently, (ii) through an area career center, or (iii) through an inter-district cooperative, award College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the following schedule:

(1) for the high school graduating class of 2027, a school district shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

(2) for the high school graduating class of 2029, a school district shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

(3) for the high school graduating class of 2031, a school district with a grade 9 through 12 enrollment of more than 350 students, as calculated by the State Board

of Education for the 2022-2023 school year, shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 3 endorsement areas.

A school district may elect to implement College and Career Pathway Endorsements by July 1, 2025, either by submitting the necessary application materials to the State Board of Education to award the number of endorsements required by this subsection or by the school board of the district adopting a timeline for implementation consistent with the requirements of this subsection.

(d) The school board of any school district may, by action of the board, opt out of implementation of all or any part of this Section through adoption of a set of findings that considers the following:

(1) the school district's current systems for college and career readiness;

(2) the school district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes;

(3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the school district for successful implementation of pathways other than education;

(4) the willingness of institutions of higher education to partner with the school district for successful implementation of the pathway and whether the

district has sought and established a partnership agreement with a community college district incorporating the provisions of the Model Partnership Agreement under the Dual Credit Quality Act;

(5) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to the students of the school district; and

(6) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas.

A school district must report its board findings and decision on implementation to the State Board of Education. A school district electing to opt out of implementation may reverse its decision in whole or in part at any time.

(e) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary to implement this Section.

(105 ILCS 5/34-18.78 new)

Sec. 34-18.78. College and career readiness systems.

(a) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, by July 1, 2024, the school district shall adopt and commence implementation of a postsecondary and career expectations

framework for each of grades 6 through 12 that substantially aligns to the model framework adopted by State agencies pursuant to Section 15 of the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act. The local postsecondary and career expectations framework shall be available on a prominent location on the school district's website.

The career exploration and career development activities offered in alignment with the postsecondary and career expectations framework shall prepare students enrolled in grades 6 through 12 to make informed plans and decisions about their future education and career goals, including possible participation in a career and technical education pathway, by providing students with opportunities to explore a wide variety of high-skill, high-wage, and in-demand career fields.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this Section, the school district shall become an eligible school district and award College and Career Pathway Endorsements pursuant to the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act and pursuant to the following schedule:

(1) for the high school graduating class of 2026, the school district shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least one endorsement area;

(2) for the high school graduating class of 2028, the school district shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 2 endorsement areas; and

(3) for the high school graduating class of 2030, the

school district shall offer College and Career Pathway Endorsements in at least 3 endorsement areas.

(c) The board may, by action of the board, opt out of implementation of all or any part of this Section through adoption of a set of findings that considers the following:

(1) the school district's current systems for college and career readiness;

(2) the school district's cost of implementation balanced against the potential benefits to students and families through improved postsecondary education and career outcomes;

(3) the willingness and capacity of local businesses to partner with the school district for successful implementation of pathways other than education;

(4) the availability of a statewide database of participating local business partners, as provided under the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act, for the purpose of career readiness and the accessibility of those work experiences and apprenticeships listed in the database to the students of the school district; and

(5) the availability of properly licensed teachers or teachers meeting faculty credential standards for dual credit courses to instruct in the program required for the endorsement areas.

The school district must report its board findings and decision on implementation to the State Board of Education. If

the school district elects to opt out of implementation, the district may reverse its decision in whole or in part at any time.

(d) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary to implement this Section.

Section 10. The Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act is amended by changing Section 15 as follows:

(110 ILCS 148/15)

Sec. 15. Postsecondary and career expectations.

(a) By no later than July 1, 2017, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and ISAC, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall jointly adopt and publicize model postsecondary and career expectations for public school students in grades 8 through 12. The model postsecondary and career expectations shall define activities that school districts, parents, and community-based organizations should support students in completing and related knowledge students should possess by no later than the end of each grade level. The model postsecondary and career expectations must address the following categories:

- (1) career exploration and development;
- (2) postsecondary institution exploration, preparation, and selection; and
- (3) financial aid and financial literacy.

(b) By July 1, 2023, ISBE, ICCB, IBHE, and ISAC, in consultation with appropriate stakeholders, shall jointly adopt and publicize an update to the model postsecondary and career expectations that extends the expectations to grade 6 and includes such other revisions and updates as the agencies deem appropriate.

(c) By July 1, 2024, ISBE shall consult with a statewide organization representing businesses and manufacturing. After consultation, ISBE shall publish and maintain on its website a current database, organized by region, of employer champions for work-based learning and career readiness systems and programs. Each employer must consent to its designation as a champion and its information being published in the database. In addition, ISBE shall publish and maintain on its website an inventory of resources available to support school districts in implementing College and Career Pathway Endorsements, including sector-specific resources.

(Source: P.A. 99-674, eff. 7-29-16.)