

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 adding Section
5 10-22.18e and by changing Sections 10-20.19a and 10-22.18 as
6 follows:

7 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.19a) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-20.19a)

8 Sec. 10-20.19a. Kindergartens. After July 1, 1970, to
9 establish and maintain kindergartens for the instruction of
10 children in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed
11 by the State Board of Education. Such kindergartens may
12 provide for either a 1/2 day or a full day of attendance for
13 pupils enrolled therein.

14 This Section is repealed on July 1, 2023.

15 (Source: P.A. 84-18.)

16 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.18) (from Ch. 122, par. 10-22.18)

17 Sec. 10-22.18. Kindergartens.

18 (a) To establish kindergartens for the instruction of
19 children between the ages of 4 and 6 years, ~~if in their~~
20 ~~judgment the public interest requires it,~~ and to pay the
21 necessary expenses thereof out of the school funds of the
22 district. Until the 2027-2028 school year, upon ~~Upon~~ petition

1 of at least 50 parents or guardians of children between the
2 ages of 4 and 6, residing within any school district and within
3 one mile of the public school where such kindergarten is
4 proposed to be established, the board of directors shall, if
5 funds are available, establish a kindergarten in connection
6 with the public school designated in the petition and maintain
7 it as long as the annual average daily attendance therein is
8 not less than 15. Until the 2027-2028 school year, the ~~The~~
9 board may establish a kindergarten with half-day attendance or
10 with full-day attendance; however, if. ~~If~~ the board
11 establishes full-day kindergarten, it shall also establish
12 half-day kindergarten. Beginning with the 2027-2028 school
13 year, each school board must establish a kindergarten with
14 full-day attendance and may establish a kindergarten with
15 half-day attendance. Full-day and half-day kindergarten should
16 be developmentally appropriate and provide opportunities for
17 play-based learning. No one shall be employed to teach in a
18 kindergarten who does not hold a license as provided by law.

19 (b) An elementary or unit school district that does not
20 offer full-day kindergarten as of October 1, 2022, may, by
21 action of the State Board of Education, apply for an extension
22 of the 2027-2028 school year implementation deadline for 2
23 additional years if one of the following criteria are met:

24 (1) the school district is funded below 76% of
25 adequacy according to the Evidence-Based Funding formula
26 under Section 18-8.15 of this Code in Fiscal Year 2023;

1 (2) the school district is ranked in the top 25% of
2 capital funding need by the Full-Day Kindergarten Task
3 Force, but has yet to receive capital funding as of the
4 date of the application; or

5 (3) the school district meets a criterion set by the
6 State Board of Education based on the Full-Day
7 Kindergarten Task Force's recommendations under subsection
8 (b) of Section 10-22.18e of this Code.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-894, eff. 5-20-22.)

10 (105 ILCS 5/10-22.18e new)

11 Sec. 10-22.18e. Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force.

12 (a) The Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force is created for
13 the purpose of conducting a statewide audit to inform the
14 planning and implementation of full-day kindergarten in the
15 State and shall, at a minimum, collect, analyze, and report
16 the following:

17 (1) the number of elementary and unit school districts
18 in the State that are currently offering kindergarten,
19 including the number offering full-day kindergarten, the
20 number offering part-day kindergarten, and the number
21 offering both part-day kindergarten and full-day
22 kindergarten;

23 (2) the number of students currently enrolled in
24 kindergarten in the State, including the number enrolled
25 in full-day kindergarten, the number enrolled in part-day

1 kindergarten, the total number enrolled in either part-day
2 kindergarten or full-day kindergarten, and the number of
3 children on any waitlists for part-day or full-day
4 kindergarten;

5 (3) for all elementary and unit school districts, an
6 estimate of the number of students eligible for
7 kindergarten;

8 (4) for all elementary and unit school districts that
9 do not currently offer full-day kindergarten, an analysis
10 of their space utilization rate and an assessment of
11 district capacity to provide space for full-day
12 kindergarten classrooms;

13 (5) for all elementary and unit school districts that
14 do not currently offer full-day kindergarten and are found
15 to have insufficient capacity to provide space for
16 full-day kindergarten classrooms, an estimate of the costs
17 associated with providing full-day kindergarten
18 classrooms;

19 (6) recommendations on how available capital funds for
20 full-day kindergarten might be disbursed to school
21 districts to prioritize districts most in need of State
22 resources; and

23 (7) other data or recommendations that would support
24 the State or individual school districts in offering
25 full-day kindergarten. Such recommendations may include an
26 analysis of other start-up or categorical costs associated

1 with offering full-day kindergarten.

2 (b) Based on the findings reported under subsection (a) of
3 this Section, the Task Force may recommend that the State
4 Board of Education consider an additional criterion when
5 granting a waiver under subsection (b) of Section 10-22.18 of
6 this Code. The State Board of Education shall make a final
7 determination regarding this additional factor and provide
8 public notice of that determination by no later than July 1,
9 2025.

10 (c) Members of the Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force shall
11 be appointed by no later than October 1, 2023 and shall possess
12 the expertise needed to complete the report and
13 recommendations. Members appointed to the Task Force must
14 reflect the racial, ethnic, and geographic diversity of this
15 State. Task Force members shall include all of the following:

16 (1) The State Superintendent of Education or the
17 Superintendent's designee.

18 (2) Three members appointed by the State Board of
19 Education with relevant expertise.

20 (3) One member who represents the Capital Development
21 Board, appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

22 (4) One member from an organization with expertise in
23 school construction and facilities financing, appointed by
24 the State Superintendent of Education.

25 (5) One member from an organization with expertise in
26 local, State, and federal tax and budget related issues,

1 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

2 (6) One member of a statewide professional teachers'
3 organization who is a kindergarten teacher, appointed by
4 the State Superintendent of Education.

5 (7) One member of another statewide professional
6 teachers' organization who is a kindergarten teacher,
7 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

8 (8) One member who represents a statewide organization
9 of school business officials and has experience overseeing
10 schools with kindergarten programs, appointed by the State
11 Superintendent of Education.

12 (9) One member who represents a statewide organization
13 of principals and has experience overseeing schools with
14 kindergarten programs, appointed by the State
15 Superintendent of Education.

16 (10) One member who represents a statewide
17 organization of school boards and has experience
18 overseeing schools with kindergarten programs, appointed
19 by the State Superintendent of Education.

20 (11) Three members who are parents of students, one of
21 whom is from an urban elementary or unit school district,
22 one of whom is from a rural elementary or unit school
23 district, and one of whom is from a suburban elementary or
24 unit school district, all appointed by the State
25 Superintendent of Education.

26 (12) One member who represents a statewide

1 organization of school districts and has experience
2 overseeing schools with kindergarten programs, appointed
3 by the State Superintendent of Education.

4 (13) One member who represents an elementary or unit
5 school district that is a Tier 3 or Tier 4 school district
6 as defined by Section 18-8.15 of this Code and that does
7 not currently offer full-day kindergarten, appointed by
8 the State Superintendent of Education.

9 (14) One member who represents a school district
10 serving a community with a population of 500,000 or more,
11 appointed by the State Superintendent of Education.

12 (15) One member who represents a rural elementary or
13 unit school district, appointed by the State
14 Superintendent of Education.

15 (d) The Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force shall meet at the
16 call of the State Superintendent of Education or the
17 Superintendent's designee, who shall serve as the chairperson.
18 The State Board of Education shall provide administrative and
19 other support to the Task Force. Members of the Task Force
20 shall serve without compensation.

21 (e) The Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force shall issue an
22 interim report by June 30, 2024 and a final report to the
23 General Assembly and Governor's Office no later than January
24 31, 2025.

25 (f) Upon issuing its final report, the Full-Day
26 Kindergarten Task Force is dissolved.

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
2 becoming law.