

1 AN ACT concerning education.

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

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 2-3.163 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.163)

7 Sec. 2-3.163. PUNS ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for~~
8 ~~Services~~ database information for students and parents or
9 guardians.

10 (a) The General Assembly makes all of the following
11 findings:

12 (1) Pursuant to Section 10-26 of the Department of
13 Human Services Act, the ~~The~~ Department of Human Services
14 maintains a statewide database known as the PUNS database
15 ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services~~ that
16 records information about individuals with intellectual
17 disabilities or developmental disabilities who are
18 potentially in need of services.

19 (2) The Department of Human Services uses the data on
20 PUNS ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services~~ to
21 select individuals for services as funding becomes
22 available, to develop proposals and materials for
23 budgeting, and to plan for future needs.

1 (3) The PUNS database ~~Prioritization of Urgency of~~
2 ~~Need for Services~~ is available for ~~children and~~ adults
3 with intellectual disabilities or ~~a~~ developmental
4 disabilities ~~disability~~ who have ~~an~~ unmet service needs
5 ~~need~~ anticipated in the next 5 years. The PUNS database is
6 also available for children with intellectual disabilities
7 or developmental disabilities with unmet service needs.

8 (4) Registration to be included on the PUNS database
9 ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services~~ is the
10 first step toward receiving ~~getting~~ developmental
11 disabilities services in this State. A child or an adult
12 who is ~~If individuals are not on the PUNS database will not~~
13 be ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services~~ waiting
14 ~~list, they are not~~ in queue for State developmental
15 disabilities services.

16 (5) Lack of awareness and information about the PUNS
17 database results in underutilization or delays in
18 registration for the PUNS database by students with
19 intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities
20 and their parents or guardians ~~Prioritization of Urgency~~
21 ~~of Need for Services may be underutilized by children and~~
22 ~~their parents or guardians due to lack of awareness or~~
23 ~~lack of information.~~

24 (a-5) The purpose of this Section is to ensure that each
25 student with an intellectual disability or a developmental
26 disability who has an individualized education program ("IEP")

1 and the student's parents or guardian are informed about the
2 PUNS database, where to register for the PUNS database, and
3 whom they can contact for information about the PUNS database
4 and the PUNS database registration process. This Section is
5 not intended to change the PUNS database registration process
6 established by the Department of Human Services or to impose
7 any responsibility on the State Board of Education or a school
8 district to register students for the PUNS database.

9 (a-10) As used in this Section, "PUNS" means the
10 Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services database or
11 PUNS database developed and maintained by the Department of
12 Human Services pursuant to Section 10-26 of the Department of
13 Human Services Act.

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall ~~may~~ work in
15 consultation with the Department of Human Services and with
16 school districts to ensure that ~~inform~~ all students with
17 intellectual disabilities or developmental disabilities and
18 their parents or guardians are informed about the PUNS
19 Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services database, as
20 described in subsections (c), (c-5), and (d) of this Section.

21 (c) The ~~Subject to appropriation, the~~ Department of Human
22 Services and State Board of Education shall develop and
23 implement an online, computer-based training program for at
24 least one designated employee in every public school in this
25 State to educate the designated employee or employees ~~him or~~
26 ~~her~~ about the PUNS ~~Prioritization of Urgency of Need for~~

1 ~~Services~~ database and steps required to register students for
2 the PUNS database, including the documentation and information
3 parents or guardians will need for the registration process ~~to~~
4 ~~be taken to ensure children and adolescents are enrolled.~~ The
5 training shall include instruction on identifying and
6 contacting for at least one designated employee in every
7 ~~public school in contacting~~ the appropriate developmental
8 disabilities Independent Service Coordination agency ("ISC")
9 to register students for the PUNS database ~~enroll children and~~
10 ~~adolescents in the database.~~ The training of the designated
11 employee or employees shall also include information about
12 organizations and programs available in this State that offer
13 assistance to families in understanding the PUNS database and
14 navigating the PUNS database registration process. Each school
15 district shall post on its public website and include in its
16 student handbook the names of the designated trained employee
17 or employees in each school within the school district. ~~At~~
18 ~~least one designated employee in every public school shall~~
19 ~~ensure the opportunity to enroll in the Prioritization of~~
20 ~~Urgency of Need for Services database is discussed during~~
21 ~~annual individualized education program (IEP) meetings for all~~
22 ~~children and adolescents believed to have a developmental~~
23 ~~disability.~~

24 (c-5) During the student's annual IEP review meeting, if
25 the student has an intellectual disability or a developmental
26 disability, the student's IEP team shall determine the

1 student's PUNS database registration status based upon
2 information provided by the student's parents or guardian or
3 by the student. If it is determined that the student is not
4 registered for the PUNS database or if it is unclear whether
5 the student is registered for the PUNS database, the parents
6 or guardian and the student shall be referred to a designated
7 employee of the public school who has completed the training
8 described in subsection (c). The designated trained employee
9 shall provide the student's parents or guardian and the
10 student with the name, location, and contact information of
11 the appropriate ISC to contact in order to register the
12 student for the PUNS database. The designated trained employee
13 shall also identify for the parents or guardian and the
14 student the information and documentation they will need to
15 complete the PUNS database registration process with the ISC,
16 and shall also provide information to the parents or guardian
17 and the student about organizations and programs available in
18 this State that offer information to families about the PUNS
19 database and the PUNS database registration process.

20 (d) The State Board of Education, in consultation with the
21 Department of Human Services, through school districts, shall
22 provide to the parents and guardians of each student with an
23 IEP ~~students~~ a copy of the latest version of the Department of
24 Human Services's guide titled "Understanding PUNS: A Guide to
25 Prioritization for Urgency of Need for Services" each year at
26 the annual review meeting for the student's individualized

1 education program, ~~including the consideration required in~~
2 ~~subsection (c) of this Section.~~

3 (e) (Blank). ~~The Department of Human Services shall~~
4 ~~consider the length of time spent on the Prioritization of~~
5 ~~Urgency of Need for Services waiting list, in addition to~~
6 ~~other factors considered, when selecting individuals on the~~
7 ~~list for services.~~

8 (Source: P.A. 102-57, eff. 7-9-21.)