

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
5 Section 2-3.66 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.66) (from Ch. 122, par. 2-3.66)

7 Sec. 2-3.66. Truants' alternative and optional education
8 programs. To establish pilot projects to offer modified
9 instructional programs or other services designed to prevent
10 students from dropping out of school, including programs
11 pursuant to Section 2-3.41 of this Code, and to serve as a
12 part time or full time option in lieu of regular school
13 attendance and to award grants to local school districts,
14 educational service regions or community college districts
15 from appropriated funds to assist districts in establishing
16 such projects. The education agency may operate its own
17 program or enter into a contract with another not-for-profit
18 entity to implement the program. The pilot projects shall
19 allow dropouts, up to and including age 21, potential
20 dropouts, including truants, uninvolved, unmotivated and
21 disaffected students, as defined by State Board of Education
22 rules and regulations, to enroll, as an alternative to
23 regular school attendance, in an optional education program
24 which may be established by school board policy and is in
25 conformance with rules adopted by the State Board of
26 Education. Truants' Alternative and Optional Education
27 programs funded pursuant to this Section shall be planned by
28 a student, the student's parents or legal guardians, unless
29 the student is 18 years or older, and school officials and
30 shall culminate in an individualized optional education plan.
31 Such plan shall focus on academic or vocational skills, or

1 both, and may include, but not be limited to, evening school,
2 summer school, community college courses, adult education,
3 preparation courses for the high school level test of General
4 Educational Development, vocational training, work
5 experience, programs to enhance self concept and parenting
6 courses. School districts which are awarded grants pursuant
7 to this Section shall be authorized to provide day care
8 services to children of students who are eligible and desire
9 to enroll in programs established and funded under this
10 Section, but only if and to the extent that such day care is
11 necessary to enable those eligible students to attend and
12 participate in the programs and courses which are conducted
13 pursuant to this Section. The Board shall report on the
14 status of the pilot projects pursuant to Section 1A-4. School
15 districts and regional offices of education may claim general
16 State aid under Section 18-8.05 for students enrolled in
17 truants' alternative and optional education programs,
18 provided that such students are receiving services that are
19 supplemental to a program leading to a high school diploma
20 and are otherwise eligible to be claimed for general State
21 aid under Section 18-8.05.

22 (Source: P.A. 90-802, eff. 12-15-98.)