

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 1D-1 and adding Section 2-3.51a as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/1D-1)

7 Sec. 1D-1. Block grant funding.

8 (a) For fiscal year 1996 and each fiscal year  
9 thereafter, the State Board of Education shall award to a  
10 school district having a population exceeding 500,000  
11 inhabitants a general education block grant and an  
12 educational services block grant, determined as provided in  
13 this Section, in lieu of distributing to the district  
14 separate State funding for the programs described in  
15 subsections (b) and (c). The provisions of this Section,  
16 however, do not apply to any federal funds that the district  
17 is entitled to receive. In accordance with Section 2-3.32,  
18 all block grants are subject to an audit. Therefore, block  
19 grant receipts and block grant expenditures shall be recorded  
20 to the appropriate fund code for the designated block grant.

21 (b) The general education block grant shall include the  
22 following programs: REI Initiative, Summer Bridges, Preschool  
23 At Risk, K-6 Comprehensive Arts, School Improvement Support,  
24 Urban Education, Scientific Literacy, Substance Abuse  
25 Prevention, Second Language Planning, Staff Development,  
26 Outcomes and Assessment, K-6 Reading Improvement, Truants'  
27 Optional Education, Hispanic Programs, Agriculture Education,  
28 Gifted Education, Parental Education, Prevention Initiative,  
29 Report Cards, and Criminal Background Investigations.  
30 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all amounts paid  
31 under the general education block grant from State

1 appropriations to a school district in a city having a  
2 population exceeding 500,000 inhabitants shall be  
3 appropriated and expended by the board of that district for  
4 any of the programs included in the block grant or any of the  
5 board's lawful purposes.

6 (c) The educational services block grant shall include  
7 the following programs: Bilingual, Regular and Vocational  
8 Transportation, State Lunch and Free Breakfast Program,  
9 Special Education (Personnel, Extraordinary, Transportation,  
10 Orphanage, Private Tuition), Summer School, Educational  
11 Service Centers, and Administrator's Academy. This  
12 subsection (c) does not relieve the district of its  
13 obligation to provide the services required under a program  
14 that is included within the educational services block grant.  
15 It is the intention of the General Assembly in enacting the  
16 provisions of this subsection (c) to relieve the district of  
17 the administrative burdens that impede efficiency and  
18 accompany single-program funding. The General Assembly  
19 encourages the board to pursue mandate waivers pursuant to  
20 Section 2-3.25g.

21 (d) For fiscal year 1996 and each fiscal year  
22 thereafter, the amount of the district's block grants shall  
23 be determined as follows: (i) with respect to each program  
24 that is included within each block grant, the district shall  
25 receive an amount equal to the same percentage of the current  
26 fiscal year appropriation made for that program as the  
27 percentage of the appropriation received by the district from  
28 the 1995 fiscal year appropriation made for that program, and  
29 (ii) the total amount that is due the district under the  
30 block grant shall be the aggregate of the amounts that the  
31 district is entitled to receive for the fiscal year with  
32 respect to each program that is included within the block  
33 grant that the State Board of Education shall award the  
34 district under this Section for that fiscal year. In the

1 case of the Summer Bridges program, the amount of the  
2 district's block grant shall be equal to 44% of the amount of  
3 the current fiscal year appropriation made for that program.

4 (e) The district is not required to file any application  
5 or other claim in order to receive the block grants to which  
6 it is entitled under this Section. The State Board of  
7 Education shall make payments to the district of amounts due  
8 under the district's block grants on a schedule determined by  
9 the State Board of Education.

10 (f) A school district to which this Section applies  
11 shall report to the State Board of Education on its use of  
12 the block grants in such form and detail as the State Board  
13 of Education may specify.

14 (g) This paragraph provides for the treatment of block  
15 grants under Article 1C for purposes of calculating the  
16 amount of block grants for a district under this Section.  
17 Those block grants under Article IC are, for this purpose,  
18 treated as included in the amount of appropriation for the  
19 various programs set forth in paragraph (b) above. The  
20 appropriation in each current fiscal year for each block  
21 grant under Article 1C shall be treated for these purposes as  
22 appropriations for the individual program included in that  
23 block grant. The proportion of each block grant so allocated  
24 to each such program included in it shall be the proportion  
25 which the appropriation for that program was of all  
26 appropriations for such purposes now in that block grant, in  
27 fiscal 1995.

28 (Source: P.A. 90-566, eff. 1-2-98; 90-653, eff. 7-29-98;  
29 91-711, eff. 7-1-00.)

30 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.51a new)

31 Sec. 2-3.51a. Reading improvement grants.

32 (a) Beginning with the 2001-2002 school year, the State  
33 Board of Education, from a separate appropriation made for

1 the purposes of this Section, shall make reading improvement  
 2 grants to school districts in order to improve the reading  
 3 and study skills of students in kindergarten through twelfth  
 4 grade. The State Board may use up to 2% of the appropriation  
 5 for the purpose of providing teacher training and retraining  
 6 in the teaching of reading. The remaining funds shall be  
 7 distributed to school districts as follows:

8 (1) Up to the first \$5,000,000 in new funds in the  
 9 2001-2002 school year shall be distributed to districts  
 10 serving grades 7 through 12. Of the funds allocated  
 11 under this paragraph (1), 70% shall be distributed on the  
 12 basis of each district's share of the prior year's best 3  
 13 months average daily attendance in those grades and 30%  
 14 shall be distributed on the basis of each district's  
 15 share of the prior year's number of economically  
 16 disadvantaged (ESEA Title I) pupils in those grades.

17 (2) The remainder of the appropriation shall be  
 18 distributed to districts serving kindergarten through  
 19 grade 6. Of the funds allocated under this paragraph  
 20 (2), 70% shall be distributed on the basis of each  
 21 district's share of the prior year's best 3 months  
 22 average daily attendance in those grades and 30% shall be  
 23 distributed on the basis of each district's share of the  
 24 prior year's number of economically disadvantaged (ESEA  
 25 Title I) pupils in those grades.

26 Grants shall be prorated as necessary for the 2001-2002  
 27 school year to ensure that the grant for each school district  
 28 shall be no less than the grant that the district received  
 29 during the 2000-2001 school year under the Reading  
 30 Improvement Block Grant Program.

31 Program funds shall be distributed to school districts in  
 32 2 semi-annual installments, one payment on or before October  
 33 30 and one payment on or before April 30, each year.

34 (b) A grant shall be awarded to each school district

1 submitting an approved application on a form provided by the  
2 State Board of Education. The application shall include a  
3 proposed assessment method for measuring the reading growth  
4 of students who receive direct instruction as a result of the  
5 funding and the impact of staff development activities on  
6 student growth in reading. Such methods may include the  
7 reading portion of the Illinois Standards Achievement Testing  
8 Program. At the end of each school year, the district shall  
9 report performance of progress results to the State Board.  
10 Districts not demonstrating performance progress using an  
11 approved assessment method shall not be eligible for funding  
12 in the third or subsequent years until such progress is  
13 established.

14 (c) Grants shall be used to hire reading specialists,  
15 reading teachers, and reading aides in order to provide early  
16 reading intervention in kindergarten through grade 2 and  
17 programs of continued reading support for students in grades  
18 3 through 12 who need continued assistance in learning to  
19 read or in maintaining reading achievement. Programs  
20 provided with grant funds shall not replace quality classroom  
21 reading instruction, but shall instead supplement such  
22 instruction. Therefore, funds may be used for professional  
23 development for classroom teachers, administrators, and other  
24 appropriate staff members on the teaching of reading. Funds  
25 used for instruction and staff development must be based on  
26 scientifically-based reading research and best practices that  
27 demonstrate student growth in reading achievement. In this  
28 Section, the term "scientifically-based reading research"  
29 means the application of rigorous, systematic, and objective  
30 procedures to obtain valid knowledge relevant to reading  
31 development, reading instruction, and reading difficulties.  
32 The term includes research that employs systematic, empirical  
33 methods that draw on observation or experiment, involves  
34 rigorous data analysis that is adequate to test the stated

1 hypotheses and to justify the general conclusions drawn,  
2 relies on measurements or observational methods that provide  
3 valid data across evaluators and observers and across  
4 multiple measurements and observations, and has been accepted  
5 by peer-reviewed journal or approved by a panel of  
6 independent experts through a comparably rigorous, objective  
7 and scientific review.

8 Grants shall be used as follows:

9 (1) In kindergarten through second grade, funds  
10 shall be used to establish short-term tutorial early  
11 reading intervention programs for children who are at  
12 risk of failing to learn to read. The programs shall (i)  
13 focus on scientifically-based research and best practices  
14 with proven long-term results, (ii) identify students in  
15 need of help no later than the middle of first grade,  
16 (iii) provide ongoing training for teachers in the  
17 program, (iv) focus instruction on strengthening a  
18 student's phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, and  
19 comprehension skills, (v) provide a means to document and  
20 evaluate student growth, and (vi) provide properly  
21 trained staff.

22 (2) In grades 3 through 6, funds shall be used to  
23 establish programs of support for students who  
24 demonstrate a need for continued assistance in learning  
25 to read and in maintaining reading achievement. These  
26 programs shall (i) focus on scientifically-based research  
27 and best practices with proven long-term results, (ii)  
28 provide ongoing training for teachers and other staff  
29 members in the program, (iii) focus instruction on  
30 strengthening a student's phonics, fluency, and  
31 comprehension skills in grades 3 through 6, (iv) provide  
32 a means to evaluate and document student growth, and (v)  
33 provide properly trained staff.

34 (3) In grades K through 6, funds shall be used to

1 provide classroom reading materials for students. Each  
2 district shall allocate up to 10% of the funds for this  
3 purpose if the appropriation exceeds \$92,000,000.

4 (4) In grades 7 through 12, funds shall be used to  
5 establish programs of support for students who need  
6 continued assistance in learning to read and in  
7 maintaining reading achievement. These programs shall  
8 (i) focus on best scientifically-based research and  
9 practice with proven long-term results, (ii) provide  
10 ongoing training for teachers and other staff members in  
11 the program, (iii) focus instruction on strengthening a  
12 student's comprehension of informational and technical  
13 text and study skills, (iv) provide a means to evaluate  
14 and document student progress, and (v) provide properly  
15 trained staff.

16 (5) Funds shall be used to provide a long-term  
17 professional development program for classroom teachers,  
18 administrators, and other appropriate staff. The program  
19 shall (i) focus on scientifically-based research and best  
20 practices with proven long-term results, (ii) provide a  
21 means to evaluate student progress in reading as a result  
22 of the training, (iii) and be provided by approved staff  
23 development providers.

24 (d) The State Superintendent of Education, in  
25 cooperation with the school districts participating in this  
26 reading grant program, shall annually report to the  
27 leadership of the General Assembly on the results of the  
28 reading grant program and the progress being made on  
29 improving the reading skills of students in kindergarten  
30 through twelfth grade.

31 (e) The State Board of Education may promulgate any  
32 rules necessary for implementation of this Section.

1           Section 10.    The School Code is amended by repealing  
2    Section 2-3.51.

3           Section 99.  Effective date.  This Act takes effect on  
4    July 1, 2001.